



Providing Inspection Services for

Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



Education and Training Inspectorate

**Kirkinriola Primary School
Ballymena, County Antrim**

Inspection Letter

January 2016

**INSPECTION OF KIRKINRIOLA PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLYMENA (301-0780)
27 JANUARY 2016**

INSPECTION LETTER

The original inspection of Kirkinriola Primary School was held in March 2011. Two follow-up inspections (FUI) were conducted in November 2012 and May 2014. As a consequence of the latter, the Department of Education (DE) removed the school from the Formal Intervention Process. The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) notified Kirkinriola Primary School of a third FUI scheduled for 27 January 2016 in line with its FUI notification protocols. The board of governors and staff have co-operated fully with the ETI in all previous inspection visits relating to the FUI process.

Prior to the FUI, the school informed the ETI that none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors on advice from their trade unions. All of the teachers in the school are involved in action short of strike. The teachers are involved in action short of strike in relation to pay, pensions and terms and conditions of employment and reductions in the education budget. Where the FUI is not carried out in full, parents and stakeholders have no complete external evaluation of the quality of education being provided by the school.

Owing to the non co-operation of the teachers, the ETI were unable to:

- scrutinise the school's documentation, including the school development plan, associated action plans and a range of whole-school policies and strategies;
- discuss the current school development priorities with the interim acting principal and the areas of learning co-ordinators;
- discuss the leadership and management of the school with the interim acting principal;
- discuss the governance of the school with representatives of the board of governors;
- scrutinise the school's internal assessment data on the attainment and progress of the children;
- observe learning and teaching in any of the classes;
- observe directly the children at work or to talk to them about their work; and
- evaluate the quality of samples of the children's work.

The chairperson of the board of governors has provided the ETI with an oral assurance that the school's arrangements for the safeguarding of the children comply fully with the DE's requirements.

CONCLUSION

Kirkinriola Primary School's follow-up inspection is incomplete. The ETI will return as soon as possible and with little or no additional notice to complete the follow-up inspection and to issue a published report. This will include undertaking all the aspects of the inspection which were not possible during this inspection visit.

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