



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*

**Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



Education and Training Inspectorate

**Clifton School
Bangor**

Inspection Letter

May 2012

INSPECTION OF CLIFTON SCHOOL, BANGOR (431-6518) – 21-23 MAY 2012

INSPECTION LETTER

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) notified Clifton School of its forthcoming inspection scheduled for 21-23 May 2012. Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that approximately half of its teachers would not be co-operating with the Inspectors on advice from the teaching unions. 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. This action is not connected with the inspection process itself. Where the inspection is not carried out in full, parents and stakeholders have no complete external evaluation of the quality of education being provided by the school.

The Inspectors spent three days in the school on the above dates and were able to:

- observe a number of lessons;
- examine samples of the pupils' work from some classes;
- scrutinise the majority of the school's written documentation;
- discuss arrangements for child protection and pastoral care with a group of the pupils;
- discuss the leadership and management of the school with the Principal, mathematics and information and communication technology co-ordinators and one of the English co-ordinators; and
- observe the pupils as they went about the school, except in some of the classes, and in the playground.

Owing to the non co-operation of some of the teachers, the Inspectors were not able to assess fully the quality of learning for the pupils, to identify areas where provision is strong or where improvements are needed. They were not able to:

- observe learning and teaching in some of the classes;
- talk to the pupils about their work in some of the classes;
- discuss the development of curricular areas with some co-ordinators;
- discuss the leadership and management of the school with the Vice-principal and the senior management team;
- evaluate the quality of achievements and standards made by the pupils;
- evaluate the quality of the provision made for the pupils; or
- evaluate fully the leadership and management of the school.

CONCLUSION

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

The ETI has reported its findings from the three day visit to the Board of Governors, the Principal and a representative of the Employing Authority. Any areas for improvement identified during this incomplete inspection have been mediated to the school enabling the school to begin addressing them in the interim. The school has provided the ETI with written assurances that the school's arrangements for the safeguarding of the children comply fully with the Department of Education's (DE) requirements.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2012

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website:
www.etini.gov.uk

