

eti

*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

**Regent House Preparatory Department
Newtownards**

Inspection Letter

February 2012

**INSPECTION OF REGENT HOUSE PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT, NEWTOWNARDS
(461-0063) – 6-7 FEBRUARY 2012**

INSPECTION LETTER

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) notified Regent House Preparatory Department of its forthcoming inspection scheduled for 6 and 7 February 2012. Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that almost all of its teachers would not be co-operating with the Inspectors on advice from one of 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.

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

- speak to a few of the staff who were not involved in the action about their work in supporting the children who need support with aspects of their learning;
- examine samples of the children's books from each of the classes;
- scrutinise some of the school's written documentation;
- have a general discussion with a group of the year 6 and 7 children that included the arrangements for child protection, pastoral care and healthy eating in the school; and
- observe the children in the playground.

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

- observe learning and teaching in any of the classes;
- observe directly the children at work;
- scrutinise the school's internal assessment data on the attainment and progress of the children;
- discuss the development of the key curricular areas under focus with the co-ordinators; and
- discuss the leadership and management of the school with the Head of Department.

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 two day visit to a representative of the Board of Governors, the Principal, the Head of Department 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

