

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Bushmills Primary School and
Nursery Unit, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in May 2018

eti

The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit, County Antrim (301-0873)

Introduction

The previous inspection in November 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Bushmills Primary School and Nursery Unit as good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 30 May 2018.

Four of the teaching unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute. This includes non-co-operation with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that none of the teachers, including the principal, would be co-operating with the inspectors. The ETI has a statutory duty to monitor, inspect and report on the quality of education under Article 102 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. Therefore, the inspection proceeded and the following evaluations are based on the evidence as made available at the time of the inspection.

Focus of the inspection

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

- the inspection was unable to focus on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the lines of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school did not provide evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect or reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education². However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the principal and teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, and the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education and safeguarding being provided for the children. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

The ETI will return to the school within six weeks to evaluate the progress in addressing the arrangements for safeguarding.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement

² The Department of Education will seek assurance from the Education Authority that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE SUSTAINING IMPROVEMENT INSPECTION OF BUSHMILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MAY 2017

SAFEGUARDING

The ETI returned to the school on 14 June 2018 to monitor and report on arrangements for safeguarding.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the school with a further opportunity to provide evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding. Owing to action short of strike, the school did not provide evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect or reflect broadly the guidance of the Department of Education at the time of the Sustaining Improvement Inspection on 30 May 2018.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

In discussions with the inspector, a group children from year 6 reported that they feel safe and happy in school. They know what to do and whom to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being.

Owing to the ongoing action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

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