

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Camphill Primary School,  
Ballymena, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement  
Inspection (Involving Action Short of  
Strike) in May 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
and other commissioning Departments



## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Camphill Primary School, Ballymena, County Antrim (301-3322)**

### **Introduction**

The original inspection in February 2011, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Camphill Primary School as very good<sup>1</sup>. The school took part in the pilot of the sustaining improvement inspection (SII). A second SII was conducted on 31 May 2017.

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 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**

The inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- developing further the teaching and learning within numeracy with a particular focus on mental mathematics and problem solving; and
- developing effective practice in Physical Education (PE) by enhancing the learning and teaching in PE across the curriculum, in particular, through the World Around Us.

### **Key findings**

- There is a well-embedded culture of self-evaluation at all levels; the senior leadership and co-ordinators monitor and evaluate systematically and rigorously all aspects of the provision and the impact on the children's learning. The detailed planning for numeracy and PE makes effective connections across the curriculum to link more meaningfully the children's learning experiences. The staff have undertaken relevant, associated staff development to build continuity, progression and challenge in both numeracy and PE; the co-ordinators' detailed evaluations of learning and teaching inform accurately subsequent actions for improvement.
- The school gives high priority to the development of the children's physical and mental health and well-being through a wide range of planned curricular programmes and after-school activities.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

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<sup>1</sup> From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly<sup>2</sup> the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The children reported that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully 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 teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the children. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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<sup>2</sup> From January 2017, arrangements evaluated previously as satisfactory are reported as reflect broadly the guidance.

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