

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Carnmoney Primary school, Newtownabbey, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (301-3301)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in May 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Carnmoney Primary School, Newtownabbey, County Antrim (301-3301)

Introduction

The previous inspection in April 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Carnmoney Primary School as having a high capacity to identify and bring about improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on the 29 May 2019.

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 leadership co-operated with the inspection team in relation to safeguarding responsibilities. 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:

- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities; and
- 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.

Key findings

- In discussion with a group of year 6 children, they reported that they have many opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through various roles, such as, playground mentors and members of the Eco- and School-Councils. The children also value the extra-curricular events and opportunities to take part in a diverse range of after-school activities which motivates them to learn.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

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

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education (DE). The ETI met with a group of year 6 children who reported that they feel safe in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety and well-being. 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.

The school needs to:

- update the relevant policies and risk assessments to reflect more accurately current DE guidance and the school's practice.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the school, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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