

Education and Training Inspectorate PRIMARY INSPECTION



Corran Integrated Primary School, Larne, County Antrim

Integrated primary school DE Ref No: 306-6561

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in March 2020



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 Corran Integrated Primary School, Larne, County Antrim (306-6561)

Introduction

The previous inspection in October 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Corran Integrated Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. The school relocated to new grounds and a new building in September 2019. Since the last inspection, there have been changes to staffing. The school hold a bronze Eco Award and are currently working towards the Silver Award. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 3 March 2020.

The trade unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute and also workload and other management issues. The industrial action 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. Members of the senior leadership co-operated with the inspection team in relation to their 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:

- 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 group of year 6 children who spoke to the Inspectors report that they have good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through the school- and eco-councils. They talked confidently about changes they had influenced, such as, the introduction of new playground equipment.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the line 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. The children report that they feel safe in the school and on schools trips and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. They also talked confidently about keeping safe online. 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 schools needs to:

- finalise and ratify a small number of policies in line with their current schedule.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the staff, 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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