

Education and Training Inspectorate PRIMARY INSPECTION



Creggan Primary School, Randalstown, County Antrim

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No: 303-0434

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



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 Creggan Primary School, Randalstown, County Antrim (303-0434)

Introduction

The previous inspection in February 2010 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Creggan Primary School as outstanding. The school took part in the pilot of the monitoring improvement inspection (MIn) in December 2016. In the interim, there has been a change in senior leadership. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 22 October 2019.

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 inspection. The senior leadership co-operated with the inspection in relation to safeguarding responsibilities. The ETI has a statutory duty to monitor, inspect and report on the standards of education and professional practice among teachers 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 report that they have very good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through the school- and eco-councils and the prefect system, for example, through fundraising for and designing their outdoor playhouse. The children report that they enjoy learning alongside their peers as part of the shared education project with a local controlled primary school.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the 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. The children report that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of who to speak to and 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 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.

Health and safety/Accommodation

1. The school has identified a health and safety matter which has been progressed with the relevant stakeholders.

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