

Education and Training Inspectorate PRIMARY INSPECTION



Derrychrin Primary School, Cookstown, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (503-2713)

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 Derrychrin Primary School, Cookstown, County Tyrone (503-2713)

Introduction

The previous inspection in September 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Derrychrin Primary School as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. The number of children enrolled in the school has risen in each of the last three years. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 2 October 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 inspection. 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- The group of mature and articulate year 6 children who met with the inspectors spoke with pride and enthusiasm about their school. They appreciate fully the opportunities to engage in a wide range of sporting activities, perform in shows and make their views known through the school council. The children are enjoying their learning and feel empowered as contributing members of their school and wider community.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- 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 school; they are well informed about how to stay safe online and are aware 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.

The school needs to:

- keep under review the access arrangements for the year 4 and year 6 mobile classrooms, including the children's use of the adjacent toilets.

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.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2019

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.eti.gov.uk