

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Donaghmore Primary School, Dungannon, County Tyrone

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (501-2632)

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Donaghmore Primary School, Dungannon, County Tyrone (501-2632)

Introduction

The previous inspection in April 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Donaghmore Primary School as having a high capacity for sustained improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 6 June 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 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:

- 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

- A group of year 6 children highlighted the fun they have in their learning across the curriculum, including the shared education work. They expressed their appreciation of the wide range of extra-curricular activities and educational visits, and the support they receive from the staff. The children are particularly proud of the award they won for their eco work. They explained the important role they play in supporting the younger children in the playground and how their suggestions and ideas are listened to and acted upon.
- It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- 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 year six children reported that they are happy and safe at school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or 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 training for the designated governor.

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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