

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Holy Trinity Primary School, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (203-6632)

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

Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Holy Trinity Primary School, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh (203-6632)

Introduction

The previous inspection in April 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Holy Trinity Primary School and Nursery Unit as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. Since that inspection, the school has continued to engage actively in a shared education partnership with another local primary school. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 28 March 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 the teachers would not be co-operating with the inspectors. The principal and designated teacher for child protection co-operated with the inspection 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

- A group of year 6 children met with the inspector and spoke confidently and positively about their learning experiences. They reported that they have very good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through their roles in the School- and Eco-Councils. They also participate in a large range of sporting, cultural and creative extra-curricular activities which extend their learning.

- The children explained that their teachers listen to their views and provide guidance and encouragement to support their learning. The children also articulated examples of how they plan, draft and improve their work and are encouraged to increase their independence through self- and peer-assessment using prescribed criteria. This was further emphasised in the children's description of the school's 'take away' homework strategy which allows them to self-manage the completion of their set homework throughout the course of the school week.
- Parents are consulted and provided with regular opportunities to attend meetings and workshops which provide practical activities to support their understanding of both the academic and preventative curriculum being taught in the school.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- a 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 (DE). The school's child protection and safeguarding policy complies with all statutory guidance and has been ratified by both the previous and the newly reconstituted board of governors. Whilst compliant, the school's complaints policy is currently under review.
- The inspector met with a small group of year 6 children who unanimously stated that they feel happy and safe in school. The children reported that they know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being; and they have an excellent understanding of how to stay 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.

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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