

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

John Paul II Primary School,
Belfast

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in March 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of John Paul II Primary School, Belfast (103-6697)

Introduction

The previous inspection in March 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of John Paul II Primary School as good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 14 March 2018.

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 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 development planning; and
- lines of inquiry, including an area for improvement which the school needed to address from the original inspection, were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- an area for improvement which the school needed to address from the inspection in 2015, namely, to embed the developing culture of self-evaluation, to improve the consistency of the children's learning experiences and raise the standards they attain; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

Safeguarding

- During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The children spoke positively of the care and support provided by the staff, the friendly ethos of the school and their enjoyment of learning. They reported that they feel safe in school and that they are aware of 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.

¹From September 2015, a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of action short of strike being taken by the teachers, 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 2018

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.etini.gov.uk