

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Killowen Primary School, Rostrevor, County Down

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (503-1318)

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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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Killowen Primary School, Rostrevor, County Down (503-1318)

Introduction

The previous inspection in November 2017 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Killowen Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. Since the last inspection, enrolment has remained steady and the acting principal has been made permanent. The school is in its first year of a shared education partnership with a local controlled primary school. The Department of Education requested that the ETI carry out a sustaining improvement inspection (SII) within eighteen months of the follow-up inspection: it 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 staff 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- The group of year 6 children, who met with the inspector, are proud of their small school and its long history. They report having a good range of learning opportunities. In particular, they enjoy the art activities, playing sport and the topic work including how the human body works. They speak enthusiastically about the friends they are making through shared education and other local community projects such as 'Arts a Wonder'.
- The children have opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through the School Council, where their fundraising activities have led to the purchase of playground equipment for the school.

- It is 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 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 (DE). The children report that they 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 principal is currently reviewing and updating the school policies.

The school needs to:

- review and update its Positive Behaviour Policy.

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

- There is unsecured access between the premises of a local business and the school.

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