

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Killyleagh Integrated Primary School, Killyleagh, County Down

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (405-6709)

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Killyleagh Integrated Primary School, Killyleagh, County Down (401-1634)

Introduction

The previous inspection in June 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Killyleagh Integrated Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. Since the previous inspection, the school transformed to controlled integrated status in September 2016 and opened a nursery unit in September 2017. The enrolment has increased by almost 20% and currently stands at 117 children. The school has established a shared education partnership with a local primary school since September 2018. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 28 May 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 team 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 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 (DE). 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:

- continue to implement the planned review of policies and procedures to reflect current DE guidance and best practice.

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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