

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Colman's Primary School,
Kilkeel, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in November 2017

eti

The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Colman's Primary School, Kilkeel, County Down (503-6545)

Introduction

In the last inspection held in November 2014, St Colman's Primary School was evaluated overall as good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 22 November 2017.

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
- a line of inquiry was not selected from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the line of inquiry; 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 issued by the Department of Education. The children, with whom inspectors met, reported that they feel safe in the 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.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the 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.

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

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