

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Francis of Assisi Primary School,  
Keady, County Armagh

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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CUSTOMER  
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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Keady, County Armagh (503-6610)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in March 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Francis of Assisi Primary School as outstanding<sup>1</sup>. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 5 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 the principal and teachers would not 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 were not selected from the development plan priorities.

However, the school provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection; and the principal engaged in a discussion about these arrangements.

## **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 reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education. The children reported that they feel very happy and safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned 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.

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<sup>1</sup> From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

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