

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Joseph's Primary School and  
Nursery Unit, Crumlin, County Antrim

Maintained, co-educational

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

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The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Joseph's Primary School, Crumlin, County Antrim (303-6026)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in November 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Joseph's Primary School and Nursery Unit as outstanding<sup>1</sup>. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 20 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**

The inspection focused 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. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The line of inquiry during the SII was:

the implementation of 'Numeracy Recovery' strategies, including technology assisted learning, to enable children to access and use higher order problem solving skills in mathematics.

### **Key findings**

- The leadership of the mathematics provision is underpinned by: a secure knowledge of the contemporary learning and teaching methodologies; robust action planning; and, regular monitoring and evaluation of the standard of the children's work using a range of evidence sources. The latter includes: the monitoring of class learning; analysis of assessment data; and, regular reviews of the children's work.
- In discussion with the children, they indicate that they enjoy solving problems in numeracy and the mental mathematics challenges. The most able year 7 children use and apply accurately a range of strategies to solve problems across the areas of numeracy and explain the methods they use to deconstruct mathematical problems.

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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.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The children report that they feel safe in school and explained what to do and who to talk to if they have concerns about their safety or well-being. They spoke positively about their learning experiences across a range of areas of learning, during formal lessons and on school trips, and the opportunities they have to lead as peer mentors, school councillors, digital leaders and Eco-councillors. 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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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