

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Wheatfield Primary School,  
Belfast

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Wheatfield Primary School, Belfast (101-6532)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in October 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Wheatfield Primary School as good<sup>1</sup>. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 11 January 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 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
- lines of inquiry, including an area for improvement which the school needed to address from the original inspection, were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

### **Key findings**

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- an area for improvement which the school needed to address from the original inspection in 2014, namely, to sustain, and build on, the improvements in both the quality of the children's learning experiences and their outcomes across the wide range of ability; 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 from the Department of Education. The children reported that they feel safe in 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 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> A school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

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