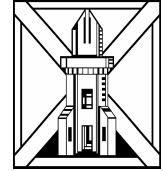


Mearns Academy

IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2009 – 2010



VISION, VALUES AND AIMS

Vision

We aspire to be a school community acknowledged as a centre of excellence for learning, teaching, and the care and welfare of all who work here.

Values

In carrying out our work we exhibit the values of:

- Fairness
- Honesty
- Respect for all
- Working together
- Communication

Aims

To support the school's vision our aims are:

- Learning: To ensure that each pupil is encouraged to respect learning and is provided with a relevant, challenging and motivational experience
- Teaching: To ensure that all teaching is of the highest possible quality and that staff are provided with a supportive and rewarding working environment
- Caring: To ensure the development in school of a positive and caring ethos in which all members of the school community are valued and supported as individuals
- Partnership: To ensure opportunities are created for parents and others in the wider community to be involved in the life of the school and its programme for improvement
- Improvement: To ensure that thorough and ongoing evaluation leads to improvements in the quality of service we provide
- Achievement: To ensure that all members of the school community are encouraged to achieve all they can and that such achievements are recognised and valued

5 PRIORITY AREAS

Mearns Academy's improvement agenda will continue to focus on 5 key areas:

KEY AREA	CURRENT LEVEL OF QUALITY
Learners' Experiences	Very Good (5)
Meeting Learners' Needs	Very Good (5)
Curriculum	Good (4)
Improvements in Performance (Achievement and Attainment)	Good (4)
Improvement Through Self-Evaluation	Good (4)

- These key areas are linked to certain HMle quality indicators and also accommodate Aberdeenshire Council priorities.
- Department/Faculty self-evaluation procedures will continue to focus on these 5 areas and individual teacher self-evaluation will continue to focus on the areas of Learners' Experiences and Meeting Learners' Needs.

IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

The target is excellence in all areas, and through discussion, support and appropriate resourcing the following areas for improvement are seen as being supportive of this goal.

Area	Improvement
Improvements in Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharing of good practice (SQA, Reviews, PT Meetings, Staff Meetings, etc) ▪ Target setting/tracking – sample S4 ▪ Update and edit homework policy ▪ New boards in Hall to recognise achievement ▪ S5/S6 study/work ethic ▪ Exam preparation support ▪ Further review of Praise and Concern ▪ Use early warning letters re S3/S5/S6
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All departments to complete Curriculum for Excellence (ACfE) planning template ▪ S1 courses ready for ACfE start 2010 ▪ Joint In-Service Day with Primary Schools ▪ Confirm and support structural changes to implement ACfE ▪ Include pupils in curriculum evaluation ▪ Continue review of PSE curriculum – link to RME in Senior School ▪ ACfE – 3 cross-curricular areas (Literacy, Numeracy & Health and Well-being) - confirm management ▪ Time for reading and reflecting on new assessment structure ▪ Extend Primary and Secondary links and good practice (e.g. transition) ▪ Review how to integrate College experience into school structure
Meeting Learners' Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PTs Guidance, SFL and Year Head meetings to be established ▪ Accommodate SFL review and consider structures within school ▪ Extend 'buddying'/mentoring of pupils (extend Prefect links to S1 Groups) ▪ Revise Pupil Representative Council structure – implement plan ▪ Pursue Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF) and utilise protocols ▪ SEEMIS – ongoing access for information about various categories of pupils – to be available for all staff (e.g. Looked After Children (LAC), Child Protection, Additional Needs, etc) ▪ Review and improve enrolment process ▪ Revise Anti-Bullying Policy and information ▪ Child Protection training
Learners' Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ELT (Effective Learning and Teaching) Policy to be developed and further integrated into work of school ▪ Further commitment to AiFL (Assessment is For Learning) ▪ ELT Group to extend the work of the Tapestry Group ▪ "Learning Together" (ex HMIe) – used to underpin learning and teaching in school ▪ Co-ordinate ICT development plans ▪ GLOW – pupil use wireless opportunities
Improvement Through Self-Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete new self-evaluation templates and support dialogue thereabout ▪ Pursue Customer Service Excellence accreditation ▪ Formal evaluation of Leadership in school ▪ HMI support materials – require line managers to engage ▪ "Sharing Good Practice" to become a required feature of all DMs ▪ Implement new meeting structure for SMT links and PTs Faculty ▪ Extend shadowing of pupils and staff across the school for staff ▪ ELT and Behaviour Group workshops to continue ▪ Extend "listening lunches" ▪ CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and PDRS (Professional Development Review Scheme) – review ▪ Support continuing work of school working parties

Others:

- Communicating with parents on major changes to the curriculum
- Website to feature video – pupils talking about the school
- Review SEEMIS and reporting system