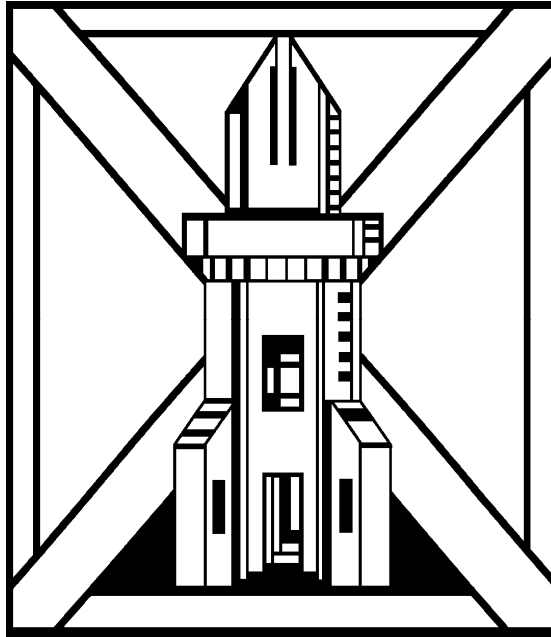


Mearns Academy



ACTIONS TO SUPPORT IMPROVEMENT

2010 – 2011

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
Improvements in Performance (Achievement and Attainment)	Good (4)
Learners' Experiences	Very Good (5)
Curriculum	Good (4)
Meeting Learners' Needs	Good (4)
Improvement Through Self-Evaluation	Very Good (5)

- These key areas are linked to certain HMIE quality indicators and also accommodate Aberdeenshire Council priorities.
- Whole-school, and 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.

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

Area		Improvement
Improvements in Performance	a)Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue all strategies to respond to SQA results/STACS 2010 • Sharing of good practice (SQA, Reviews, PT Meetings, Staff Meetings, etc) • S5/6 study/work ethic – continuing focus • Exam preparation support – support for revision classes
	b)Emerging Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target setting/tracking – new policy implemented focusing on raising attainment • Implement revised homework policy • Implement revised prelim and assessment arrangements in S5/S6
Learners' Experiences	a)Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELT Policy to be developed and further integrated into work of school • Further commitment to AiFL – dept policies to confirm this • ELT Group to extend the work of the Tapestry Group • GLOW – increase pupil use, wireless opportunities
	b)Emerging Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Learning Together” (ex HMle) – used to underpin learning and teaching in school • Co-ordinate ICT development plans
Curriculum	a)Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint In-Service Day with Primary Schools/Joint collegiate activities • Confirm and support structural changes to implement CFE (S3-S6) • Include pupils in curriculum evaluation • Continue review of PSE curriculum – link to RME in Senior School • Extend curricular links and sharing of good practice with primary schools
	b)Emerging Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All departments to implement Curriculum for Excellence planning template re S1 • S2 courses ready for CFE 2011 – template extended • Implementation of new assessment structures/reporting procedures • Establish John Muir Trust Award – S1 inter-disciplinary project • Within S1 deliver Reflective Period and establish inter-disciplinary homework tasks • Establish YASS courses for S6
Meeting Learners' Needs	a)Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend 'buddying'/mentoring of pupils (extend Prefect links to S1 Groups) • Pursue Integrated Assessment Framework (IAF) and utilise protocols • Child Protection training – continuing focus
	b)Emerging Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise Pupil Representative Council structure – implement plan • SEEMIS – improve access to information about various categories of pupils – to be available for all staff (e.g. LAC, Child Protection, Additional Needs, etc) • Review and improve enrolment process • Revise Anti-Bullying Policy and information • Respond to concerns raised regarding attendance of learners.
Improvement through Self-Evaluation	a)Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Customer Service Excellence accreditation/evaluate new CS Policy • Extend 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” • HT – learning visits to all depts./faculties to be extended
	b)Emerging Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to formal evaluation of Leadership in school May 2010 • Respond to Learning Survey April 2010 • CPD and PDRS – review and implement amended procedures • Implement revised QI policy and calendar

Others:

Communicating with parents on major changes to the curriculum
 Website to feature video – pupils talking about the school
 Improve staff induction procedure and introduce mentoring facilities for new PTs
 Re-visit review of shape of school day/week