

Armadale Academy

Standards and Quality Report	2006 – 2007
Local Authority Review	2007
Improvement Plan	2007 – 2008

Summary for Parents

Standards and Quality Report

In session 2006 – 2007 our School Improvement Plan achieved the following:

Curriculum

- ◆ We continued to develop our S3 – S6 curriculum to allow presentation in certain subjects in Third Year.
- ◆ The curriculum now consists of a mix of Standard Grade and National Qualification courses in S3 – S6. This flexibility allows us to better meet the needs of our pupils.
- ◆ We raised awareness of a national programme called “A Curriculum for Excellence” amongst staff and pupils and began to consider the implications of this major curricular development.
- ◆ We continued to work with our associated Primaries on a number of curricular and transition initiatives.
- ◆ We improved the quantity and quality of our ICT hardware and its effective use in Teaching and Learning in daily classroom practice. The school’s web site is now online.
- ◆ We took forward numerous activities to progress Health Education, Enterprise and Citizenship.

Attainment

- ◆ Our attainment in 5 - 14 Reading and Writing was above our target level and in line with national levels of attainment.
- ◆ Our attainment in 5 - 14 Maths was above our target level and national levels of attainment.
- ◆ Our standard Grade and Higher results were in line with the targets set by West Lothian and with similar schools nationally. At Standard Grade the school is seen by the Authority as “punching above its weight”!
- ◆ We gained three Firsts in West Lothian’s Stellar Awards for schools. For the second year running, one of these was for the top attaining Fourth Year pupil in West Lothian.
- ◆ We continued to work with departments to analyse SQA results and to develop strategies to raise the attainment of all pupils.

Learning and Teaching

- ◆ The main focus of development was in the implementation of Assessment for Learning techniques in the classroom. Staff development and sharing of good practice in this area featured prominently in the course of the session.
- ◆ We maintained a significant Out of Hours Learning programme through Homework Club (S1 / 2), Learning Club (S3 – 6) and departmental Study Support (S3 – 6). An Easter Revision school also took place.
- ◆ Student Support and Departmental Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting procedures in respect of pupils were improved. It is hoped that ICT problems will be resolved for next session.

Student Support

- ◆ The authority policy in respect of pupils with Additional Learning Needs was implemented successfully.
- ◆ Our Student Support Team continued to work effectively with external agencies to support our pupils.
- ◆ Strategies were implemented, in and out of class, to address the needs of the lowest 20% ability group. This year there was a specific emphasis locally and nationally on the attainment of this group in all schools.
- ◆ The pastoral support available to pupils has been enhanced by individual and group work in relation to mental health, stress and anger management and counselling. Transition work has also been undertaken in this area with Primary 6 / 7 pupils.

School Ethos

- ◆ We have improved consultation with pupils in respect of school, authority and community issues.
- ◆ Citizenship activities have expanded beyond the normal House and Charity activities to include Environmental issues, Global Citizenship and links with the community of Armadale.
- ◆ Two Stellar Awards were gained for our pupils' activities in relation to Raising Awareness of AIDS and the promotion of Dance in the school and community.
- ◆ The school gained accreditation as a Health Promoting School. We also gained a Silver Eco and a Silver Enterprise Award. These are nationally accredited awards.

Management Leadership and Quality Assurance

- ◆ We improved monitoring and evaluation procedures with increased classroom observation and review procedures by Line Managers. We also encouraged staff to self evaluate and undertake peer observation.
- ◆ New school policies on Citizenship and SQA procedures were produced.
- ◆ Policies were reviewed and amended in Learning and Teaching, ICT and Dress Code.

Authority Review Areas of Strength

An Authority Review of the school was undertaken this year. The review team found that the school had several key strengths, ensuring that pupils were well supported both academically and pastorally.

- ◆ The Head Teacher, Deputies and Extended Management Team provided very good leadership, and this was the foundation for many of the successful changes which had been introduced.
- ◆ Enterprise had been firmly embedded in the curriculum and the successful programme was a model of very good practice.
- ◆ The Principal Teachers Curriculum worked well as a team in the application of quality assurance processes and behaviour management practices.
- ◆ There was a joint approach to school improvement with evidence of staff sharing good practice with their colleagues.
- ◆ Support for pupils was very good. Pupils felt safe, valued and appreciated the accessibility of staff when required.
- ◆ Pupils' progress and attainment was very carefully tracked and monitored.
- ◆ The flexibility of curriculum design was having a positive impact on pupil attainment and behaviour. Provision for the lowest attaining 20% was very creative and effective.

Looking Forward – Our Improvement Plan

In our **School Improvement Plan** for **2007 – 2008** we intend to focus on 3 key areas.

Attainment

We intend to:

- ◆ Develop Two Year Higher courses in English, Maths and French building on Third Year SQA presentation in these subject areas
- ◆ Expand the variety of courses in S5 / 6 and improve coursing at appropriate levels.
- ◆ Optimise attainment in Fourth Year in English, Maths and French for those not proceeding to the two year Higher.
- ◆ Further improve attainment in the lowest 20% ability group
- ◆ Further develop the Tracking, Monitoring and Reporting system.

Curriculum for Excellence

We intend to:

- ◆ Develop new courses in English, Modern Languages and Maths in line with the requirements of the Curriculum for Excellence programme.
- ◆ Develop and implement new teaching approaches using Assessment is for Learning techniques to improve pupils' learning experiences and engagement in learning.
- ◆ Undertake further staff development and sharing of good practice in these areas.

Ethos

We intend to:

- ◆ Improve communication and consultation with pupils, parents and staff to better meet their needs. As a result we hope to gain Charter Mark status.
- ◆ Participate in the Rights Respecting Schools initiative and achieve a Level 1 award.
- ◆ Achieve Level 2 status as a Health Promoting School.
- ◆ Achieve the Fair Trade Mark.
- ◆ Achieve Green Flag status as an Eco school.
- ◆ Achieve a Gold Award for our Enterprise activities.
- ◆ Introduce a new Dress Code
- ◆ Work with Parents to develop the new Parents' Forum and School Council.

All of these activities contribute to the development of school ethos. Some of these activities may take longer than one session to achieve.

We hope that you have found this summary helpful. A full copy of the Standards and Quality Report for 2006 – 2007 and School Improvement Plan for 2007 – 2008 is available from the school and can also be found on our web site.

Graham Johnstone
Head Teacher
June 2007