

Learning and Behaviour

November 2001



SCHOOL → **Earnock High School, South Lanarkshire**

FOCUS → **Integrating learning and promoting positive behaviour**

What initiatives are in place to encourage active pupil participation in decision-making and in the promotion of a more positive approach to discipline?

- Pupils have a direct involvement in our monitoring and evaluating procedures
- Pupils are directly involved in our Promoting Positive Behaviour initiatives and were instrumental in drawing up the Partnership Agreement for pupils and staff
- Our S1 Induction Programme and our course choice arrangements exist in their current state because of the advice pupils shared with us
- In-school research involving 100 pupils directly influenced in-service training and staff manual items on learning and teaching
- Our Enhancement Programme for senior students offers opportunities for pupils to shape and influence provision

- Class Representatives offer opinions and insights into different aspects of the school. Improving toilet provision was one major scheme emanating from this system
- The re-introduction of a uniform policy was a result of extensive consultation with pupils
- Programmes and initiatives such as Priority Pupils Projects, Study Support and Supported Study are all influenced greatly by pupils' needs and expressed opinions and requests
- Current committees, for example the Ethos Committee, overtly embrace the involvement of pupils

How are these initiatives being monitored and evaluated ?

We have extensive monitoring and evaluating arrangements that focus on all aspects of provision over a 3-year period. These initiatives are seen as an integral part of that provision and are monitored and evaluated appropriately.

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What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and young people in implementing these initiatives?

- Time to meet, discuss, shape, organise, implement, monitor and evaluate
- Persuading and influencing everyone to “come on board”
- Being realistic and aware of the social issues beyond the school which can impact negatively on initiatives
- Lack of an agreed set of values by all partners

There are some barriers that are beyond our control and which we are not in a position to influence to the extent which we would like. This is a considerable challenge.

What worked well?

Everything to an extent works well taking into account the caveat above. We know that we have varying degrees of success but will continue to be innovative nevertheless. The introduction of uniform, our course choice arrangements and S1 Induction are good examples of what has worked well.

What did not work and lessons learned?

Everything works to a degree. Much of this depends on the extent to which all parties are involved but this is not a new lesson; we knew this all along. What has been confirmed again and again is the need to share the vision, and to link up all initiatives in an overall strategy.

Sharing philosophy and priorities and giving them practical expression ensures greater success, as does the linkage between initiatives. We do not have initiatives and projects operating in isolation; there is a “joined-upness” about them.

Future Plans?

Our current development plan has a number of areas that encourage and ensure even greater input from pupils. The most relevant relate to:

- Development Planning
- Learning and Thinking Skills
- Promoting Positive Behaviour
- Priority Pupils
- Ethos
- Supported Study
- Transition Stages
- Quality Management
- Celebrating Success
- Gender Issues
- Education for Work
- Core Skills
- Upper School PSE
- Health Education

We hope to increase our compliance with the principles laid out in the Education Act and involve pupils and parents in more aspects of our provision. We want to do this in a meaningful way, reduce tokenism and build confidence in all relevant partners.

The real focus in this school is about striving for quality within a no-blame culture. We encourage the culture where the reflective professional is supported and believe that we help pupils best by helping their teachers.

We are happy for people to contact us and/or visit us.



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