

## Can inclusive schools be effective in raising attainment

April 2003



**SCHOOL** → **Menzieshill High School, City of Dundee**

**FOCUS** → **Quality Contact Project**

### *Initiatives or projects in place that illustrate how an inclusive school can be effective in raising attainment*

The Quality Contact Project was designed to address transfer issues between P7 and S1. Issues concerning pupils were identified and dealt with before entering P7. These cluster days were organised in the local community centre before the accepted visits to the high school. The value of this project lies in listening and reacting to concerns voiced by pupils and involving secondary staff in the less formal cluster days that take place before the secondary visit.

### *How these initiatives are being monitored and evaluated*

The Quality Contact Project has been evaluated in partnership with the Psychology Department of Dundee University. It has involved the development, use and analysis of ethos questionnaires, coupled with regular discussions with the pupils concerned.

### *What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and young people or members of your organisation, in implementing the initiatives or projects?*

Despite all schools traditionally do, transition remains an uncertain time for P7 pupils. The value of this project lies in listening to and reacting to concerns voiced by pupils and in involving secondary staff in the less formal cluster days that take place before the secondary visit.

### *What has worked well?*

- ✓ Working with P7 pupils early in their P7 year.
- ✓ Listening to their concerns and acting on them.
- ✓ Involving secondary staff in the cluster days.
- ✓ Allowing S1 classes to meet and work together in an informal setting before the secondary visit.
- ✓ Involving staff from outside agencies in the process.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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***Future plans?***

The Quality Contact Project will now be rolled out throughout Dundee. Menziesshill Cluster is now working on an exit strategy.



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