

## **GROVE ACADEMY**

### **Standards and Quality Report 2012**

#### **Section 1 Introduction, school aims and values**

Grove Academy has a history of over 120 years and has had a clear set of aims for many of those years.

##### **AIMS**

At Grove Academy we aim to:

- 1 provide a balanced education to meet the needs of each individual pupil
- 2 raise pupil attainment via effective learning and teaching
- 3 be a caring school which encourages self discipline and respect for others
- 4 encourage the personal and social development of all pupils and staff
- 5 develop close relationships between the school, home and community which it serves
- 6 prepare pupils to meet the challenge of the world in which they live

This current year has seen us reviewing the Vision we have for our school and through consultation with pupils, parents and staff, we are currently negotiating a refined final agreed vision which will encapsulate the type of school we are and would wish to become.

The current review is also attempting to identify a set of shared Values, which will, together with the shared Vision, be the golden thread running through the school and be the standard against which we measure our progress. These values will be agreed by pupils, staff and parents, and it is envisaged that there will be five or six core values.

It is hoped that the shared Vision and Values will be agreed by Christmas 2012. Most importantly at the end of this consultation, we will have a shared Vision of excellence for the school and an agreed set of Values to underpin our day to day interactions with each other, whether we are Grove pupils, members of staff or Ferry citizens.

#### **Section 2 Improvements in Performance**

##### **S1—S3**

The curriculum areas that should be commented on are

In order to measure progress in the BGE, we have become practised in using MidYIS in S1 and SOSCA baseline testing in S2, thereby setting meaningful targets for pupils to achieve. The use of SOSCA in S2 allows us to find out the value added at Grove over the first year or so. Throughout the BGE we use ongoing formative and summative assessment and professional judgement in BGE to measure pupils' progress. There is also a growing use of moderation within departments and across schools in Dundee to measure pupils' progress. Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well Being have been priorities for us this session and development and implementation of these polices is progressing positively.

**S4—6**

- The percentage of pupils gaining English at Level 3 or better by the end of S4 is 98%, unchanged from 2011. The three year average for 2010-12 is 98%
- The percentage of pupils gaining Maths at Level 3 or better by the end of S4 is 97%, unchanged from 2011. Our three year average (2010-12) is 98%
- The percentage of pupils gaining English and Maths at Level 3 or better by the end of S4 improved from 96% to 97% from 2011 to 2012. 97% is the average for the last three years.
- The percentage of pupils gaining 5+ @ level 5 by the end of S4 fell from 59% to 49%, although this is expected to rise to 50% after Appeals have been processed. However over a three year pattern 2010-12, the school achieved 54.6% at this level, compared to 55.3% in 2009-11.
- The percentage of pupils gaining 3+ @ Level 6 by the end of S6 rose 14% from 52% to 66%. The three year average 2009-11 was 52.3% compared to the improved average over 2010-12 of 56.3%
- The percentage of pupils moving onto positive destinations is 95%

<b>English @ Level 3</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Dundee City</b>	<b>National</b>
2012	98	96	88
2011	98	96	87
2010	99	92	86
Ave 2010-12	98	95	87
Grove Target 2013	99	-	-

<b>Maths @ Level 3</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Dundee City</b>	<b>National</b>
2012	97	93	86
2011	97	92	85
2010	99	92	84
Ave 2010-12	98	92	85
Grove Target 2013	99	-	-

<b>Eng + Maths @ Level 3</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Dundee City</b>	<b>National</b>
2012	97	92	81
2011	96	90	79
2010	99	86	78
Ave 2010-12	97	89	79
Target 2013	99	-	-

<b>5+ @ Level 5 (S4)</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Dundee City</b>	<b>National</b>
2012	49	26	35
2011	59	28	34
2010	56	27	34
Ave 2010-12	55	27	34
Target 2013	63	-	-

<b>3+ @ Level 6 (S6)</b>	<b>Grove</b>	<b>Dundee City</b>	<b>National</b>
2012	66	30	36
2011	53	31	35
2010	51	25	33
Ave 2010-12	57	29	35
Target 2013	66	-	-

In attaining these excellent figures several strategies were used:

- Excellent support from Guidance staff
- A focus on high quality teaching and learning in all departments
- Maintenance of high expectations by all staff
- Effective and consistent tracking and monitoring of pupils to ensure they achieve their potential
- Robust analysis of prelim results in S4-6 with all departments and subsequently extra support for specific pupils who were underachieving
- HT meeting with over 80 pupils individually in S4-S6 not on target
- Extensive supported study offered by most departments for all pupils in S4-6

The school has a clear commitment to staff being involved in continuous life-long professional learning by establishing a school-based programme of CPD activities and has encouraged staff to participate in courses, visits to other schools and twilight sessions where their learning will improve the learning of our pupils. Staff are involving themselves in current DCC events to ensure moderation of the BGE in all curriculum areas.

The departments, and Principal Teachers in particular, are becoming more aware and skilled in the use of standardised testing in S1/2 which informs teaching methodologies and approaches for all pupils to ensure their needs are met. Similarly, an increase in the number of professional support visits to classes has allowed the spreading of good practice to continue, particularly with reference to LTiD and Assessment is for Learning.

Cluster working has continued to strengthen and a number of staff have been involved in NAR projects involving moderation and standardisation of exemplars of CfE Levels 2-4 in three curricular areas.

### **Section 3 Improvement Planning Section**

The School Improvement Plan was a three year plan lasting from 2009 to 2012. It contained the following projects:

#### **DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES 2009-2012**

- Implement the Curriculum for Excellence
  - This is an on-going project and will continue in the next SIP. Progress has been made in developing the Broad General Education in S1-2 and plans for the final year of BGE (S3) were also made and are being implemented. Plans and curricular guidelines for the Senior Phase were also agreed. This means that every pupil will experience a curriculum which is coherent from 3-18, a broad general education (up to the end of S3) and a senior phase where he or she can continue to develop the four capacities and also obtain qualifications. Policies to develop skills for learning, life and work with a continuous focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing are being progressed.

- Develop effective tracking & monitoring systems
  - The school has made good progress in developing a very effective tracking and monitoring system and this will continue to be refined in the coming years in order to ensure pupils leave Grove Academy and go on to a positive, sustained destination.
- Promote the effective use of ICT
  - The deployment of IT resources has been well managed and expanded and consequently the use of IT in lessons across the school has improved. More needs to be done in this area, particularly with the use of Inter-active White Boards, and hand-held technology.
- Incorporate audit into normal school procedures and activities
  - The school's self-evaluation policy has become more firmly embedded and is resulting in staff being more aware of how they can improve their own teaching and help pupils improve their learning.
- Develop leadership at all levels
  - The opportunities for distributed leadership have improved and most school working groups and committees are chaired by staff outwith SMT. Plans are afoot to establish a leadership academy for pupils.
- Promote better behaviour
  - Positive behaviour has been encouraged throughout the life of the present SIP. However, there is a need to review the policy and ensure that more restorative practices are included in the policy, thereby making the school more inclusive for all pupils.
- Increase parental involvement
  - The consultation with and the involvement of parents in the school, particularly through the Parent Council, has increased. This has been very positive with regard to the developments in the curriculum which have taken place this year – Curriculum for Excellence guidelines, 30 period week, vertical registration and Tutor time to enhance Personal Support in CfE.

The new School Improvement Plan (SIP) (2012-15) was, for the first time, drawn up by the Strategy and Improvement group, which included representatives of all levels in the school. The SIP covers five projects:

- Improving Achievement and Attainment
- Improving Learners' Experiences
- Building our Curriculum
- Improving our Capacity in Meeting Learners' Needs
- Embedding a Culture of Self-Evaluation.

This new SIP will cover all six entitlements and will be a major strategy in ensuring the school moves towards making a Curriculum for Excellence a reality.

#### **Section 4      Parent Council Report**

Grove Academy has had another fabulous year. This is entirely due to the dedication of the school community including the head teacher, senior management team, teachers, support staff and students. Unusually, national attainment results are not yet available for the school. Therefore, it is not possible to report the usual facts that Grove is the top performing school in Dundee and compares favourably nationally. We have expectations that the three-year upward trajectory of the school attainment profile will have continued.

Schools are not only measured in terms of academic performance. Grove also has notable achievements by pupils in sports and the performing arts. The large number of sporting achievements are quite rightly recognised by the school. Excellence in the performing arts is apparent and the school has allowed the talent of our young adults to flourish in a number of performances e.g. the music evening and performances at music festivals. Such successes are testament to the dedication of staff that gave of themselves to support such events. These extra-curricular performances are allied to excellent learning and teaching opportunities in the classrooms on a daily basis. They all make Grove a place where young adults continue to grow and thrive. Our thanks must go to all those in the school who facilitate the achievements of our children.

We have a new head teacher. We have a new uniform, a new timetable, new starting/finish times, new registration classes and a new curriculum. The performance of the building has improved, but is still not faultless.

Dundee City Council has not yet delivered the road-safety improvements promised for the campus area. The council has had expert technical help from this Parent Council and it is a concern why this has not progressed. The Parent Council will have an important role to play in supporting the school to ensure that Dundee City Council holds similar aspirations for students' attainment and safety that we have as parents.

## **Section 5 Pupil Council Report**

The Pupil Representative Council at Grove has 48 representatives from all year groups and Houses. Reps are elected by year group peers. Meetings are held monthly and are chaired by the Depute Head Boy who is also Grove Academy's Dundee City-wide PRC representative. Minutes are circulated to all members and staff. Guidance staff provide an opportunity in SE for discussion on matters arising as well as topics for future agendas.

The PRC has been instrumental in recent years in discussion on the following:

- School uniform
- School time table changes
- Curricular changes discussion regarding CfE
- A pupil voice on Parent Council
- Prizegiving arrangements
- Changes to late coming procedures
- Contribution to the development of House points allocation
- Dining Hall issues.

The Depute Head Boy and the S5 vice-chair attend the Dundee City-wide PRC on behalf of the school and feedback to the PRC.

## **Section 6 School Achievement Section**

We are extremely proud of the achievements of pupils and staff at Grove Academy. All our recent and past achievement are to be found on the school website at:  
[www.grove.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk](http://www.grove.ea.dundee.city.sch.uk)

Graham W Hutton  
Rector  
December 2012