



GROVE ACADEMY

Standards and Quality Report 2015/16

Section 1 Introduction, school aims and values

Grove Academy has a history of over 125 years and has had a clear set of aims for many of those years.





The shared Vision we have for our school encapsulates the type of school we are and would wish to become.




Our Vision




Together the Grove Learning Community is building an excellent school where we all:

-  VALUE learning and aim to be the best we can be
-  BUILD positive relationships so everyone feels included, valued and safe.
-  DEVELOP confidence, leadership, commitment and a strong sense of values
-  REACH out to the wider world and make a difference to others.

Our shared Values, which, together with the shared Vision, are the golden thread running through the school and the standard against which we measure our progress. These values have been agreed by pupils, staff and parents, and they are our Handful of Values:

Our 
HANDFUL OF VALUES



HONESTY
Be true to yourself and others.

RESPECT
Treat others the way you would like to be treated yourself.

RESPONSIBILITY
Understand and accept the positive and negative consequences of your actions.

FAIRNESS
Consider everyone as individual and give them a fair chance.

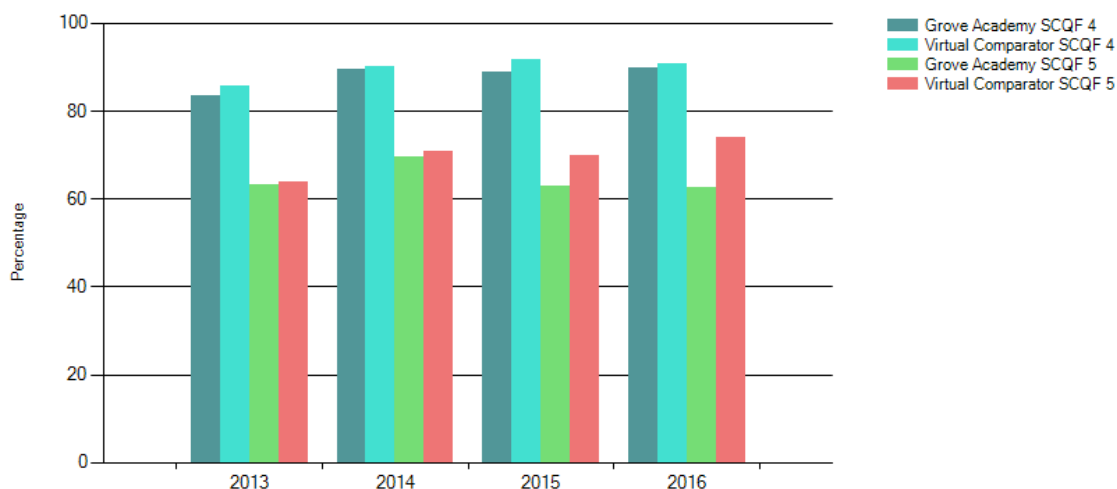
DETERMINATION
Aim to achieve the best you can, even when it is challenging.

The Vision and Values 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

The following information on School Attainment & Achievement (S4-S6 Leavers) is taken from the national Insight website and indicates the high attainment and achievement during 2015-16 of Grove pupils.

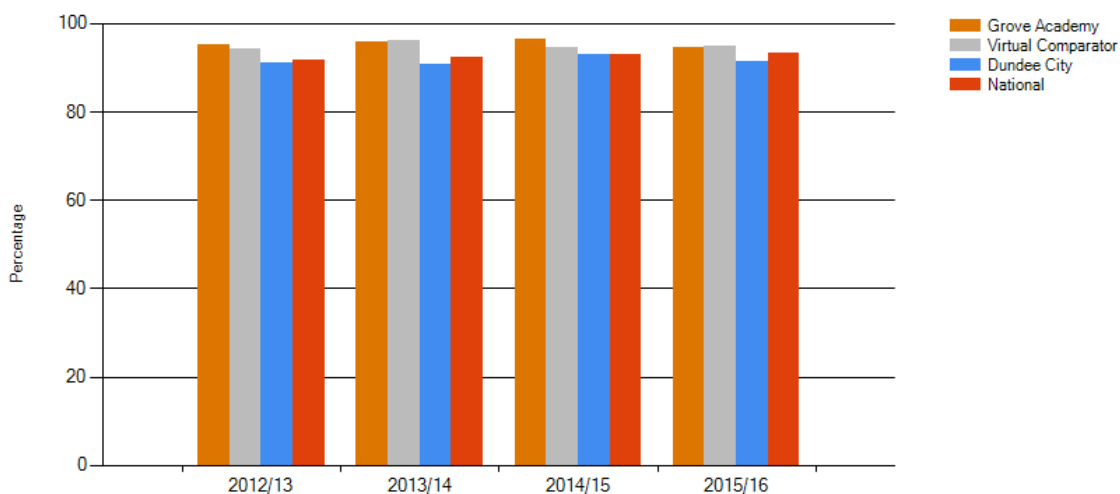
Improving attainment in literacy and numeracy



Year	Establishment	% Level 4 Literacy and Numeracy	% Level 5 Literacy and Numeracy	Number in Cohort
2013	Grove Academy	83.51	63.30	188
	Virtual Comparator	85.64	63.83	1,880
	Dundee City	73.68	43.07	1,379
	National	77.92	52.47	51,632
2014	Grove Academy	89.47	69.47	186
	Virtual Comparator	90.26	70.89	1,860
	Dundee City	79.05	45.49	1,327
	National	81.24	55.29	50,035
2015	Grove Academy	88.79	62.78	223
	Virtual Comparator	91.88	70.00	2230
	Dundee City	83.77	51.00	1294
	National	85.76	58.62	52433
2016	Grove Academy	89.81	62.62	206
	Virtual Comparator	90.87	73.93	2060
	Dundee City	85.95	54.32	1388
	National	88.06	64.21	52249

Whilst Performance in Literacy and Numeracy at SCQF Level 5 in 2013 and 2014 was just below our Virtual Comparator, this has fallen behind in the last two years. We are now addressing that through better presentation and appropriate presentations at level 5, particularly in numeracy, which has a negative effect on the positive literacy attainment across these levels in 2013-16. We are still well ahead of both the Dundee and National performance at both levels in 2015.

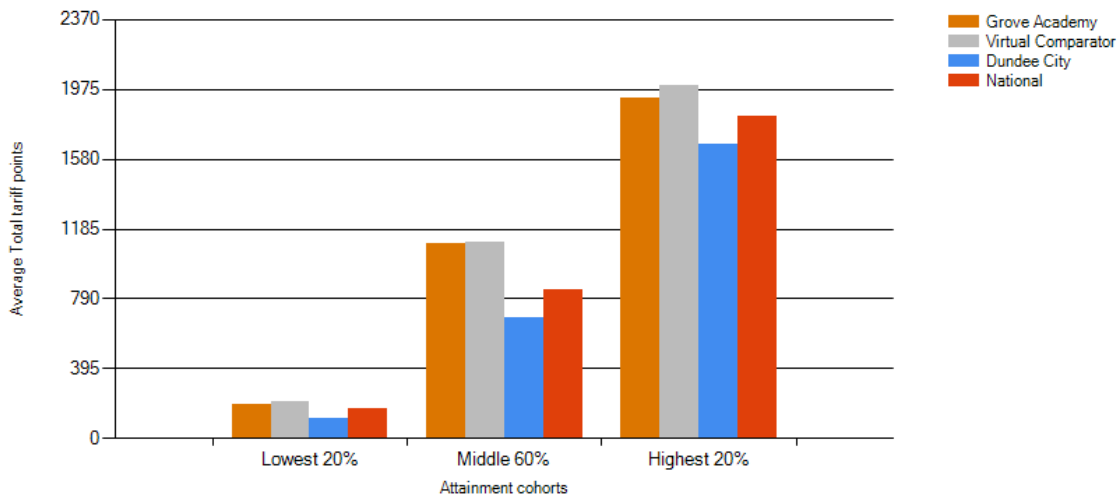
Improving post-school participation (% of school leavers in a positive destination)



Year	Establishment	% of Schools Leavers in a Positive Destination	Number in Cohort
2012/13	Grove Academy	95.21	188
	Virtual Comparator	94.73	1,880
	Dundee City	91.08	1,379
	National	91.70	51,632
2013/14	Grove Academy	95.70	186
	Virtual Comparator	95.81	1,860
	Dundee City	91.11	1,327
	National	92.57	50,035
2014/15	Grove Academy	96.41	223
	Virtual Comparator	94.62	2230
	Dundee City	93.04	1294
	National	93.02	52433
2015/16	Grove Academy	94.66	206
	Virtual Comparator	94.76	2060
	Dundee City	91.50	1388
	National	93.33	52249

In 2015/16 Grove's percentage of school leavers achieving a positive destination fell by 1.8%, although still above both Dundee and National levels but slightly below our virtual comparator. This was disappointing, but not surprising given we had no Careers Advisor for most of the session due to long-term illness. We strive to achieve 100% positive destinations for our leavers. Better careers guidance has been a priority during this session and the new flexible career pathways introduced into the curriculum should see a positive trend in future.

Improving Attainment for All (Average total tariff score)



Establishment	Lowest 20%	Middle 60%	Highest 20%	Number in Cohort
Grove Academy	192	1099	1924	206
Virtual Comparator	207	1107	1995	2060
Dundee City	115	686	1661	1388
National	170	838	1822	52249

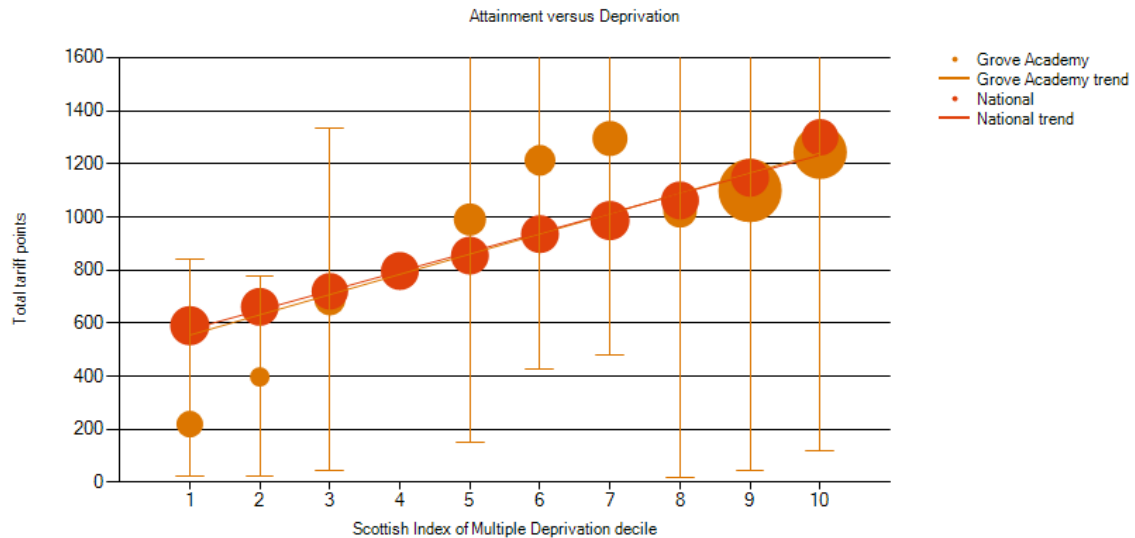
Attainment in the Lowest 20% still needs to improve. More suitable courses for this cohort are being designed, and the principle of Free Choice as pupils choose their learning pathways to suit their individual needs is a strength. We need to ensure that the curriculum offered and pursued by the Lowest 20% is suited to and valid for their needs and is more vocational for many pupils. The Virtual Comparator underlines the known fact that we have further work to do here.

For 2015/16 in all three divisions the school has out-performed Dundee and Scotland, which is pleasing, but lags slightly behind the virtual comparator, particularly in the Highest 20%. We need to work on this.

Attainment versus Deprivation

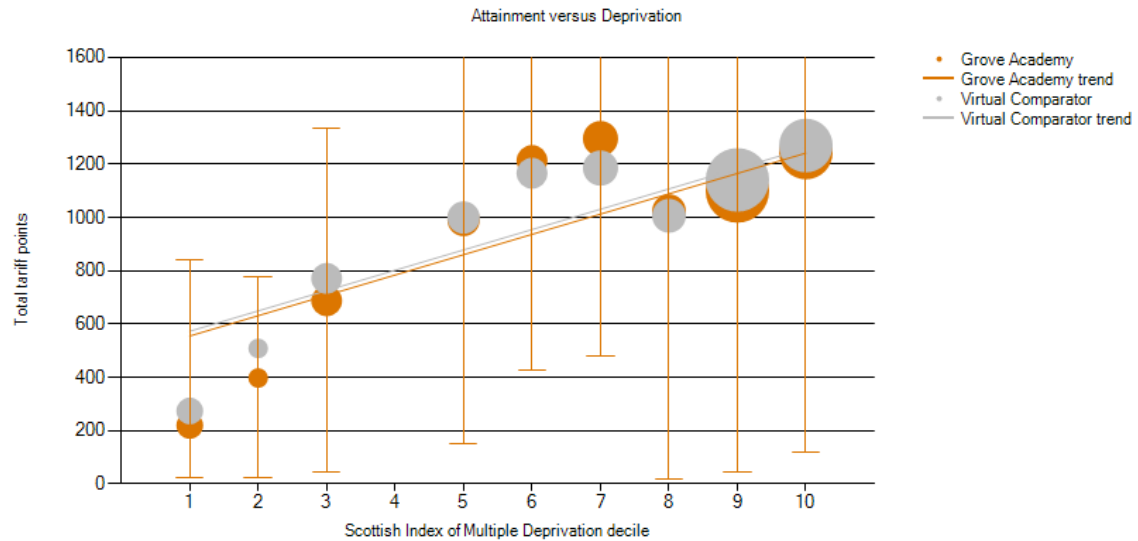
The deciles here are based on post codes and reflect the deprivation or affluence of the school community. In the top three SIMD deciles (8-10) Grove has performed roughly on the national trend. In SIMD deciles 5, 6 and 7 we have performed much better than the National Establishment, which is the opposite from the previous year. The underperformance in deciles 1 and 2 is poor and worse than in 2014/15. It is clearer our aim to narrow the gap for the pupils living in deciles 1 and 2.

Tackling disadvantage by improving the attainment of lower attainers relative to higher attainers



Against the virtual comparator, we are still performing on average slightly better but there are a number of areas where some work is required to raise the performance of pupils, specifically in deciles 1 and 2.

Tackling disadvantage by improving the attainment of lower attainers relative to higher attainers



Section 3 Improvement Planning Section

The School Improvement Plan is a three year plan lasting from 2015/16 to 2017/18. It was, as usual, drawn up by the Strategy and Improvement Group, which included representatives of all levels in the school and covers the following four projects:

- **Attainment and Wider Achievement**
 - Improving Targeting, tracking and monitoring across the school
 - Narrowing the attainment gap (especially literacy and numeracy)
 - Promoting wider achievement

- **Impact on Learners**
 - Continue to develop effective learning and teaching
 - Improve pupil feedback
 - Improve and widen opportunities for pupil leadership
 - Improve parental involvement
 - Promote positive parenting skills to support young people's achievement

- **Delivering the Curriculum**
 - Implement and imbed IDL as the fourth context for learning
 - Developing Scotland's Young workforce
 - Sustainable development of the curriculum
 - Whole staff responsibility to ensure we Get It Right For Every Child

- **Self-Evaluation**
 - Improve staff self-evaluation
 - Improve whole school self-evaluation

This SIP covered all six entitlements and is a major strategy in ensuring the school moves towards making a Curriculum for Excellence a reality.

Good progress has been made in all areas of the SIP during the 2015/16 session, particularly in the areas of curriculum development and plans to develop alternative, flexible career pathways for the young workforce, introducing more IDL across the curriculum, developing a more robust tracking system in the Senior Phase and improving the self-evaluation culture of the school.

Section 4 Parent Council Report

Penny Lewis, chair of the Grove Parent Council for 2015/2016, gave a report on the Parent Council. Penny mentions the priorities of the Parent Council in the past year.

- a. The top priority of the Parent Council was to improve communication between the school and parents. The challenge of this task was to maintain a balance between the needs of parents and pupils. At a secondary school level, it is important to continue to develop pupil's independence and their ability to responsibility for their own arrangement. However, parents feel that pupils could be missing out on opportunities due to insufficient communication. The Parent Council received a request from a parent to include the issues of communication on the agenda. The Chair raised these points on communication and it was generally felt that parents particularly would like more information on extra-curricular activities and opportunities for trips. A parent mentioned that one of the issues on communication is to identify what can and cannot be communicated via the various means such as email or Facebook and also how to communicate subsequent changes in communication with parents.
- b. The Chair felt the Parent Council made modest progress in 2015/2016. Some of the key achievements included the frequent use of the Parent Council Facebook page. The Grove Academy Parent Council Facebook page can be found via a search for 'Grove Academy Parent Council'. Parents were thanked for their role in driving our Facebook Page. It was noted that the Facebook page is available for all school related communications. The Chair mentioned that the FB page welcomes any school relevant news and information. If anyone has information to share, please personal message the FB page. The Communities Adviser mentioned that she would like to establish community links with our FB page. She was advised to personal message the FB page and one of the administrators would undertake the necessary work to establish any linkages.
- c. Friends of Grove. The Chair mentioned that the Parent Council maintains strong linkages with Friends of Grove. Friends of Grove have organised a Door's Open Day on Saturday 17 September from 10:30-14:30.
- d. Curriculum Content and Assessment. The Chair mentioned that the Parent Council were pleased with the number of heads of department that were able to attend Parent Council meetings. The various presentations provided parents with great insight into the subjects. Particular mention was made of the following Grove staff: Mrs o' Brien, Maths department; Mrs McIntosh, Scottish Studies; Mr Creamer, on the introduction of new technologies and his curriculum development work on preparing pupil's for their future pathways; Mr Hutton, monthly updates on progress of the school
- e. Trends in Education. From the Parent Council's perspective, the Dundee City Council has focused in the 2015/16 session had been on closing the attainment gap rather than on issue of supply staff (as focused on in 2014/15). The Scottish Government's main focus is on the attainment gap. The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) identified concern over teacher's workloads.
- f. Pastoral care of pupils. During the 2015/16 session the Scottish Government tabled the Named Person legislation. The Grove Parent Council held a discussion around this issue. Nationally aspects of the legislation were challenged in the courts and as a result of the verdict, the Scottish government will need to adapt their proposed legislation.

Section 5 Pupil Council Report

The Pupil Representative Council at Grove provides an opportunity for class reps to meet regularly each term within their own House to discuss various aspects of school which are relevant to them. Each House PRC has an elected Chairperson (S4-6) and Vice-chair (S1-3) to take forward appropriate agenda items towards whole school meetings for further consideration and action if required. Whole school PRC meetings are held termly and chaired on a rolling basis by the 3 House Chairs who also contribute to the Dundee City-wide Pupil Council. PRC reps are encouraged to seek views on school related matters from their SE class prior to meetings and feed back to the SE class post-meeting. The opportunity for debate on these issues is made available through SE time.

The PRC has contributed towards:

- Celebrating Achievement Events
- Tutor time activities
- Assemblies programme
- Planning and evaluation of House Games

Although the PRC Chairs, Vice-chairs and Secretaries are responsible for the calendar of meetings, the preparation of the agenda and the dissemination of minutes, a member of the Guidance Team attends and supports meetings.

The Rector's *5 A Day* programme also gives pupils the opportunity to have their voices heard, particularly with regard to their learning experiences. Feedback from the *5 A Day* programme is shared by the rector with pupils and staff and influenced the projects in the new School Development Plan 2015-18.

Section 6 School Achievement Section

We are extremely proud of the achievements of pupils and staff at Grove Academy. All our recent and past achievements are to be found on the school website at: www.grove.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk

Graham W Hutton
Rector