
HM Inspectors of Schools

Follow-up to the Inspection of

Grove Academy

Dundee City Council

Main points for action

1. *In conjunction with the education authority and the School Board, the school should take appropriate steps to improve signposting and restrict public access to the school campus.*

The school and the education authority had made good progress in meeting this recommendation.

Extensive signposting had been carried out across the school campus. This included clear notices designed to restrict the use of the campus area as a public thoroughfare.

2. *The school should review its curricular provision in S1/S2 in line with the recommendations in HM Inspectors' report 'Achieving Success in S1/S2'; ensure that pupils follow national recommendations on balanced courses in S3/S4; and improve the provision of religious and moral education in S3-S6 to meet national requirements.*

The school was making good progress towards meeting this recommendation.

A full review of the curriculum from S1 to S4 had been carried out. In S1/S2 effective action was being taken to implement national advice. This included the introduction of a rota system in the social subjects and the elimination of subjects studied for only a single period each week. The school had suitably reviewed its advice to S2 pupils and their parents on course choice. Figures for session 2000-2001 indicated that nearly all pupils entering S3 would have a well-balanced curriculum. The school was appropriately increasing the time allocated to religious and moral education.

3. *To improve attainment, the school should review its arrangements for curricular advice and provision from S3-S6 to ensure that pupils choose more appropriately demanding courses.*

The school was addressing this recommendation effectively.

The senior management team and guidance staff had taken effective action to ensure that pupils in S3 to S6 were able to maximise their potential. The school had reviewed and improved its advice to pupils from S3 to S6 on the number of subjects they should study. Positive steps were being taken to ensure that from June 2000 almost all S3 pupils would be taking eight as

against seven Standard Grade courses. The S5/S6 course choice booklet had been amended. It included clear advice encouraging pupils, as appropriate, to undertake a suitably challenging range of Higher Grade subjects in S5. The number of S4 pupils going on to study four or five Higher Grades subjects had increased significantly over the past two years.

4. *In strengthening its procedures for development planning, the school should ensure that the process provides a stronger focus for its work through a more systematic audit of provision and setting clear targets linked to improving attainment.*

This recommendation was being addressed effectively.

More systematic approaches to development planning had been developed. These included improved procedures for reviewing the work of the school using national performance indicators, and more effective monitoring of progress by senior promoted staff. Most departments had set priorities which focused closely on improving attainment. The school and departmental development plans now had a key role in the work of the school.

5. *To improve attainment, management at all levels should give clearer and stronger emphasis to improving the quality and consistency of teaching, learning and assessment across departments.*

Good progress was being made on this recommendation.

In consultation with staff, a starter paper on classroom organisation had been prepared which included expectations on classroom observation. Members of the senior management team had begun to monitor learning and teaching in the subject departments with which they linked. They used their classroom visits to extend their familiarity with courses and approaches to teaching. There were clear plans to further develop the role of principal teachers in monitoring the work of their departments.

6. *The remits of the senior management team should be reviewed to match more closely the current needs of the school.*

Very good progress had been made on this recommendation.

The remits of the senior management team had been reviewed and specific responsibilities for leading key areas of development had been identified. The revision of remits had resulted in an improved balance of duties across members of the team and had enhanced their role in aspects of quality assurance.

No further visits will be made to the school by HM Inspectors of Schools in relation to the 1998 report.