
HM Inspectors of Schools Follow-up to the Inspection of Hillpark Secondary School Glasgow City Council

Main Points for Action

1. *The school should address the curricular issues noted in the report.*

The school had made good progress towards meeting this recommendation.

The school had strengthened its curriculum planning links with its associated primary schools. However, a number of departments needed to build further on pupils' primary school experience. The desired move to a 30-period week was being negotiated with the education authority. It involved plans to extend the coverage of religious and moral education and to introduce rotation in the social subjects at S1/S2. The school had revised the programme for personal and social education in S5/S6.

2. *The school should increase its provision for religious observance, in line with national guidance.*

The school had not met this recommendation.

The school's attempts to address this issue through securing a chaplaincy from a local church had not yet been successful. Meantime, the school should investigate further the possibility of increasing religious observance from within its own staff resources.

3. *With a view to raising standards of attainment, national testing should be introduced in English language and mathematics and teachers should review current approaches to teaching, learning and assessment.*

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this recommendation.

The school will complete the introduction of national testing in English language and mathematics during the current session. Raising attainment was now a clear focus of the school development plan and departments had adopted a range of approaches for achieving this. These included: higher expectations of pupils' achievement; improvement and differentiation of course materials; a stronger focus on homework; greater challenge for higher-attaining pupils; a focus on the attainment levels of boys; and the provision of

supported study. Senior managers should continue to monitor these various approaches to ensure that all departments contribute consistently to this priority.

4. *The senior management team should work with staff to improve development planning.*

The school had made good progress towards meeting this recommendation.

The school's core development planning group now included some principal teachers. The school had revised the priorities of the development plan and had established raising attainment as a major focus. There was now a clearer link between the school and departmental plans. Reviews of departmental plans took place on a regular basis. The school should build on this good foundation by sharing the full detail of the school plan across departments, clarifying its longer-term priorities and developing a strategy for the audit of its work.

5. *The senior management team, in co-operation with the principal teachers, should: develop a more systematic approach to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school; and identify appropriate staff development to support this.*

The school had made very good progress towards meeting this recommendation.

Senior managers and the principal teachers' group had agreed a more structured approach to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school. This included a clear connection with the process of personal review and development. The role of the senior management team was now more focused. Their approaches included: the formal review of Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) results and the setting of targets; on-going review of plans with departments; and systematic classroom observation by senior managers. Senior managers had gained in expertise in this aspect of their work and their approach was more rigorous. The school was now in a good position to develop further the role of principal teachers in the evaluation of the school's work.

As a consequence of the overall good progress which has been made, HMI Inspectors will make no further visits in connection with the inspection report of January 1998.