



METHODIST COLLEGE BELFAST

School Development Plan 2014-17

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Values and Aims of Methodist College Belfast

Values

Founded by the Methodist Church in 1865 the College is a non-denominational, co-educational grammar school, where pupils of all faiths and none are welcomed into a safe, supportive and inclusive environment. We aim to provide equal opportunities for all and the diverse talents of each of our pupils are appreciated, nurtured and celebrated. The development of intellectual curiosity, critical debate, active and independent learning, and the pursuit of excellence are all valued. Through the pursuit of curricular and extra-curricular activities we support and promote our belief in the importance of developing the whole child. Our pupils are encouraged to be enthusiastic, confident and tolerant young people, who have respect for themselves and for others.

Aims

At Methodist College we seek to:

- challenge, inspire and support our pupils as individuals to grow intellectually, personally and spiritually, and to achieve their potential;
- promote high academic standards and the development of diverse skills and capabilities through a variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities;
- encourage a questioning approach which searches for truth through reason, research and debate based on freedom of thought and expression;
- encourage creativity as a way of nurturing the human spirit and improving the quality of life;
- work for the benefit of the school and the local community, while promoting the concept of service to all communities, national and international;
- encourage environmental awareness, recognising our responsibility for the welfare of the planet;
- prepare our pupils to be responsible citizens and leaders, who respect the value of cultural diversity and our common humanity in a fast-changing and complex world;
- promote social justice and to counter prejudice and intolerance by encouraging mutual respect and understanding;
- provide opportunities for pupils to work together to develop an understanding of the importance of forgiveness, reconciliation, recognition and renewal in order that individuals, communities and society may flourish;
- recognise that learning is a life-long process by which we seek to gain not only qualifications but also humility and wisdom.

By the time they leave the College the pupils should be ready and able to contribute to society in the spirit of John Wesley's challenge to:

*“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”*

Methodist College School Development Plan 2014-17 Overview

2014-15 represents the first year of the new development plan. The key issues and areas for development have ascertained and the plan drawn up following extensive consultation with all stakeholders. This consultation is summarised as follows:

February 2014

A specialist Educational Survey provider, Kirkland Rowell, surveyed all parents, pupils and teaching staff.

Bespoke in-house surveys were conducted with Governors, Classroom Assistants, Administrative Staff, Technicians, Cleaning and Janitorial Staff.

October 2014

Further Consultation (SDD) with teaching staff on the Priorities for Development identified in the Teaching and Learning section of new plan.

In addition to this consultation the school also took cognisance of the ETI Inspection Report (March 2014), surveys of learning conducted by School Council and a review of the progress made on the 2011-14 Plan.

The resulting plan continues with our overarching vision of: Moving from Good to Outstanding in all areas of our provision of Opportunity, Diversity and Excellence.

The plan is organised into 3 sections:

- Leadership and Management
- Teaching, Learning, Support and Guidance
- Ethos

The 2014-17 Development Plan has been ratified by the Education Committee of the Board of Governors. It is stored together with Departmental Development Plans and Personal Development Plans associated with PRSD on a single online database, Schoolcentre.net. Further documents, costings and evidence of progress are also stored electronically on this system which can be accessed by all staff. This helps to ensure that the School Development Plan is an accessible and flexible document and that progress towards targets can be easily and transparently monitored. Targets in the SDP are linked to TTI indicators. PRSD targets are linked to GTCNI competencies.

Should a representative of DENI, the ETI or the BELB require further explanation or monitored access to the system, they should contact either the Principal (Mr S Naismith) or the Senior Vice Principal (Ms J Davison).

MCB Summary of Development Focus Points 2014-17

Leadership and Management

1. CPD
2. Health and Wellbeing of Staff
3. Internal Communication
4. Home/School Communication
5. Careers Guidance
6. LLW
7. Computer Access
8. New Timetable
9. Examination Reforms

Teaching, Learning, Support and Guidance

1. Quality of Teaching
2. Independent Learning
3. Target Setting and Tracking
4. Self-Evaluation
5. Cross curricular Skills
6. Learning Environment
7. SEN

Ethos

1. Form Teams
2. Links with Feeder Primary Schools
3. Pupil Health and Wellbeing
4. Extra Curricular