

Dyce Academy
Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan
2026-27
Summary

Self-Evaluation Summary

Leadership of Change

- The school has introduced new values of Ambition, Respect and Inclusion, developed with input from pupils, staff and parents, helping to create a shared sense of purpose across the school.
- More staff and pupils are taking on leadership responsibilities and helping to shape improvements across the school.
- The school successfully achieved the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award and is now working towards Gold accreditation.
- There has been a significant increase in pupil leadership opportunities through Ambassador groups, House Captain roles and the Personal Development Programme.
- Staff report greater involvement in decision-making, leadership and school improvement activities than in previous years.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

- Positive relationships between staff and pupils create a calm and supportive learning environment in most lessons.
- Learning and teaching have become more consistent through:
 - Clear lesson structures
 - Improved differentiation
 - Greater pace and challenge
 - Better use of learning intentions and success criteria.
- Pupils are experiencing more authentic learning opportunities, including outdoor learning and learning beyond the classroom.
- Faculties have strengthened moderation and assessment practices, helping improve the quality and consistency of learning experiences.
- Pupils report higher levels of enjoyment in their learning, and classroom observations show improving engagement and participation.

Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion

- Strong relationships between staff and pupils continue to be a key strength of the school.
- More pupils report feeling safe in school than in previous years.
- Rights Respecting Schools work has improved pupils' understanding of their rights and responsibilities and strengthened the school's inclusive ethos.
- The school continues to reduce barriers caused by poverty through initiatives such as study packs, starter packs, the Swap Shop and financial support advice for families.
- Work on diversity, equalities and positive destinations helps pupils feel included and supported as they prepare for life beyond school.

Raising Attainment and Achievement

- Literacy attainment continues to improve across both the Broad General Education (BGE) and the Senior Phase.
- Numeracy attainment at Level 5 has improved, particularly in S4.
- The curriculum has expanded, providing pupils with a wider range of qualifications and pathways to success.
- Positive destination figures remain high, with over 95% of young people progressing to further education, employment or training after leaving school.
- Targeted mentoring, equity initiatives and additional support programmes are helping vulnerable learners achieve better outcomes.

Improvement Plan

The improvement plan focuses on **five key priorities** aimed at improving outcomes for learners through stronger leadership, high-quality learning and teaching, improved wellbeing and inclusion, increased attainment, and enhanced opportunities for skills development and global citizenship.

1. Leadership of Change

The school will embed its new vision, values and aims, develop a new website, strengthen staff professional learning, and expand leadership opportunities for both staff and pupils. A greater focus on self-evaluation and stakeholder engagement will support continuous improvement and foster a strong school identity and culture.

2. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Work will focus on developing a Home Learning Policy, improving assessment planning, strengthening moderation processes, and continuing professional learning in key pedagogical areas. This aims to provide learners with more consistent, challenging and engaging learning experiences that improve attainment.

3. Safeguarding, Wellbeing, Equity and Inclusion

The school will enhance wellbeing provision through a whole-school wellbeing strategy, refresh anti-bullying and behaviour policies, improve attendance procedures, strengthen ASN processes, and begin work towards the Keeping the Promise Award. The overall goal is to ensure all pupils feel safe, supported, included and able to succeed.

4. Raising Attainment and Achievement

A culture of ambition and high expectations will be developed through improved target setting, curriculum review, enhanced progression pathways, effective use of data, targeted mentoring and better recognition of achievement. Particular focus will be placed on supporting learners to maximise attainment and closing attainment gaps.

5. DYW and Global Citizenship

The school will strengthen partnerships with employers and community organisations, review skills programmes, work towards Rights Respecting Schools Gold status, and expand sustainability education. These actions will help learners develop employability skills, global awareness, and a stronger understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

Overall Intended Impact

By the end of session 2026-27, Dyce Academy aims to:

- Strengthen its culture through shared vision and values.
- Improve learning, teaching and assessment practices.
- Enhance wellbeing, inclusion and safeguarding.
- Raise attainment and achievement for all learners.
- Increase leadership opportunities for staff and pupils.
- Prepare young people effectively for life, learning and work.

The plan places learners at the centre of improvement, with all actions designed to improve their experiences, outcomes and opportunities both within and beyond the classroom.