



SELF-EVALUATION FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT

Stranraer Academy | Updated August 2025

Current Focus: *Our Health & Wellbeing* | 2025–26

INTRODUCTION

Excellent schools have robust internal approaches to self-evaluation and also value the objectivity which external partners can bring. Excellent schools understand that self-evaluation should be an ongoing process. They continually reflect and evaluate their work and use the evidence from these activities to plan future improvement. Thus, the direction for future improvement comes from the school and its partners. This is the definition of self-improvement.

How Good is Our School (4th Edition)

THE THREE KEY QUESTIONS

How are we doing? · How do we know? · What are we going to do now?

Central to this approach will be three main questions which drive all self-evaluation activity at Stranraer Academy. The direction for improvement always comes from the school and its partners — this is the definition of self-improvement.

01

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Gathering evidence to understand our current position

02

HOW DO WE KNOW?

Triangulating data, views and direct observation

03

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

Using evidence to plan targeted improvement

AIMS OF THE POLICY

- Engage all staff in a culture of ongoing self-evaluation across Stranraer Academy.
- Involve pupils, parents and stakeholders in line with Education Scotland's HGIOS guidance on learner participation (2018).
- Maintain robust quantitative and qualitative information about the school.



- Reflect on practices and use evidence to raise attainment and achievement.
- Develop leadership and management capacity across the school.
- Use knowledge gained from monitoring and evaluation effectively in the planning process.

In achieving these aims, all at Stranraer Academy will look:

<p style="text-align: center;">INWARDS</p> <p>Knowing our strengths and areas for development through effective self-evaluation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">OUTWARDS</p> <p>Learning from what happens elsewhere to challenge our own thinking</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FORWARDS</p> <p>Planning for improvement based upon the information gathered</p>
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EVIDENCE FOR SELF-EVALUATION

Any identified strengths or areas for development must be grounded in a robust evidence base. At Stranraer Academy this evidence comes from three sources:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quantitative Data 	<p>Attainment figures, attendance rates, bullying data, options choices, exclusion rates, tracking data, prelim and SNAS results.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● People's Views 	<p>Surveys, focus groups, pupil council meetings, parents' evening feedback, parent council input, professional dialogue, learning visits and team meeting minutes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Direct Observation 	<p>Structured observation of practice in classrooms, outdoors, workplaces and residential settings, linked to agreed criteria with feedback given. All stakeholders can engage.</p>

5-YEAR CONTINUOUS SELF-EVALUATION CYCLE

Each year, SLT focuses on a particular theme and carries out an in-depth review of the key quality indicators within that theme. All stakeholders are involved. The findings feed into the Standards & Quality Report and School Improvement Plan.

YEAR	THEME	KEY QUALITY INDICATORS (HGIOS 4)
2022–23	Our Relationships	1.3 Leadership of Change · 2.1 Safeguarding · 2.3 Learning & Engagement · 2.4 Personalised Support · 3.1 Wellbeing, Equality & Inclusion
2023–24	Our Learning & Teaching	1.2 Leadership of Learning · 2.2 Curriculum · 2.3 Learning, Teaching & Assessment · 2.4 Removal of Barriers · 2.6 Transitions
2024–25	Our School & Community	1.4 Leadership & Management of Staff · 1.5 Management of Resources · 1.3 Leadership of Change · 2.7 Partnerships · 3.3 Digital Innovation
2025–26 CURRENT	Our Health & Wellbeing	1.5 Finance for Learning · 2.1 Safeguarding · 2.3 Learning & Tracking · 2.5 Family Learning · 2.7 Partnerships · 3.1 Inclusion



2026–27	Our Successes & Achievements	2.2 Curriculum – Skills for Life & Work · 2.7 Impact on Learners · 3.1 Inclusion & Equality · 3.2 Raising Attainment · 3.3 Creativity
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SELF-EVALUATION CALENDAR 2025–26

The calendar below provides an overview of evaluation activities carried out throughout the session. Colour coding indicates the strand of activity.

- Learning & Teaching
- Pupil Voice
- Parental Feedback
- Results & Moderation
- Curriculum Review

Aug	PTC Learner Observations Pupil Council — Our HWB Faculty Results Analysis & Subject Plans BGE Faculty Curriculum Review
Sep	PTC Learner Observations (cont.) Pupil Council — Our HWB Microsoft Forms — S1 Parents' Evening S3/S4 Option Form Review
Oct ★	SLT Faculty Observation — Social Subjects S1 & S2 Work Sampling / Moderation S3/S4 Option Form Review
Nov	SLT Faculty Observation — Healthy Living Microsoft Forms — S5/S6 Parents' Evening Prelim Result Analysis Meetings
Dec	Optional Peer Observations Faculty Microsoft Forms — Prelim Feedback (SP) Microsoft Forms — S4 Parents' Evening S4 & S5/S6 Prelim Moderation
Jan	Optional Peer Observations S5/S6 Option Form Pupil Input Faculty Microsoft Forms — Prelim Feedback (SP) S5/S6 Prelim Moderation
Feb	Learning Walk — Creative Arts, HWB & Registration Pupil Input to Learning Walk Microsoft Forms — S2 Parents' Evening S2 Moderation (linked to Tracking)
Mar	Learning Walk — Maths & Business, Science Pupil Council — linked to SIP Microsoft Forms — S3 Parents' Evening S1 Moderation (linked to reports), S3 Moderation SP Faculty Curriculum Review
Apr	Learning Walk — Science, LC, Nurture & Aird Pupil Council — linked to SIP Partner Forum S5/S6 Option Form Review



May	Learning Walk — Languages Pupil Council — linked to SIP, HGIOS Forms Microsoft Forms — Annual Parent Council, SQR & SIP S3 Moderation & Target Setting
Jun	Learning Walk — Aird Faculty Microsoft Forms — BGE Feedback, Focus Groups Partner Review Forms Faculty Curriculum Review — Study Leave

★ *Current month — October 2025*

CONTACT & FURTHER INFORMATION

- School website: <https://stranraeracademy.org/policies/>
- Standards & Quality Report published annually on the school website.
- School Improvement Plan updated each August.