



▶ WHAT IS A SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN? 1

○ APRIL

○ 2009

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▶ SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANNER MODULE FROM SCHOOLIP 2



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What is a School Development Plan?

A 'School Development Plan', a 'School Improvement Plan' or the 'Post-Inspection (Ofsted) Action Plan' as it is often known is a high-level strategic planning document covering all the school's activities over a period of three or four years.

There is no prescribed format for the plan. However, the School Development Plan will say much about the quality of the school's leadership and direction and Ofsted inspectors will look at it closely during inspection.

The development and implementation of the school's development plan should be an integral part of the school's management and governance. It is vital that activity associated with the plan is not seen as a separate exercise carried out merely to gain a tick on an assessor's checklist.

What should it contain?

The School Development Plan is primarily a working document for use by the school. It will be based on the school's analysis of current levels of performance, its assessment of how current trends and future factors may impact on the school and set out priorities and targets for improvement for the period ahead.

Implementation of the School Development

Plan should be flexible and subject to careful monitoring, the findings of which should be taken into account when updating the plan the next year.

The key purpose of school development planning is to contribute to the continuous improvement of the quality of learning and teaching through a process of regular and ongoing planning, evaluation and review. It is important to stress that school development planning is not just about the curriculum, but includes all aspects of the school that contribute to improvement (e.g. ethos, equal opportunities, staff development, behaviour, buildings).



The production of a school development

plan is not a task that can be undertaken by an individual working in isolation, irrespective of whether that person is a Governor, the Principal or a member of staff.

It requires close involvement of all staff, particularly teaching staff, in the process and consultation with others, especially parents and pupils. A school development plan need not be an extensive document. Indeed, it has been found that the more extensive the plan, the less its value in influencing the day-to-day practice in the classroom.

The school development plan should be a living document which every member of staff can and does use, routinely, as a reference point in how they develop, improve and carry out their work.

It is the improvement in the quality of learning and teaching in the classroom and the pupils' attainments, and all the learning and development experiences of the pupils in their charge which should lie at the heart of every school's development plan.

School Planning that works

SchoolIP provides web-based software solutions to aid the improvement and performance of your educational institution. One of these solutions is the School Development Planner

The School Development Planner is a tool created to help develop, refine and review the school improvement plan in a manageable and visually intuitive way.

The plan can then be worked on during the year to record progress. Links can be setup to the SEF to provide evidence of improvement within the school.

Controlling and Granting Access

Your school development plan no longer needs to be a static document with just a small number of contributors copying and pasting into an unmanaged document. The plan becomes a live document which can be worked on by any numbers of key personnel within the school simultaneously.

Assign staff to each section to allow them to contribute towards each section. Users are assigned a range of permissions which restricts their access to the document. Budget and actual spend can be set against each activity and section. The financial information can be restricted to just those members of staff responsible for handling this information.

Creation

You are provided with full control over the structure, complexity and size of your school development plan. You are able to define the number of sections required – optionally linking them to subjects taught within the school. Each section can be broken down into a number of key school activities that need to be achieved during the school year.

The development plan is constantly changing and evolving not just over the current school year, but over many years. You can add sections and activities at any point. Provision for links to CPD and SEF are included for each activity. Target dates are specified against each activity to control when the item should be completed.

Constant Evaluation

As the development plan is constantly changing and evolving not just over the current school year, but over many years, new sections and activities can be added at any time. The plan can be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis, attaching documents and links as evidence to enhance the details for each activity.

Each item within the plan has a progress status. This can be used to keep track of your progress through the plan and present a graphical representation of the whole plan or individual section. The School Development Plan can be linked to individual questions in the SEF, thus reducing the need to store duplicate documentation and allows quick navigation between the two key areas of your school improvement policy.

Budgets

The development planner can also be used to specify budgets for the current financial year. Estimated costs can be specified on a per activity basis with optional links to financial cost codes. Actual spend against the budget can be added throughout the school year to allow the system to show how the schools budget is being apportioned. Budget information is available to show the user at a glance how the financial performance is progressing. Rights and permissions control who is allowed to view the financial information.

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Executive Principal

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