



DRAFT

Lancashire County Council's Vision for School Improvement

Lancashire County Council will work with schools and other providers to increase educational achievement at all stages and narrow the gap between priority groups and the population as a whole by raising attainment for all.

Vision: expectations of 21st century schools in Lancashire

Schools in Lancashire are dedicated to making the positive difference to the children and young people in their care by:

- Setting high expectations and achieving them
- Providing excellent teaching, personalised education and development in an environment where pupils are enthusiastic about learning
- Identifying the additional needs of children and addressing them.
- Providing a range of activities and opportunities to enrich the lives of children, families and the wider community.
- Working effectively with families, providers and wider children's services

School Improvement Strategy

Lancashire County Council is committed to ensuring that all children receive an excellent education in schools at the forefront of outstanding practice. *Working in partnership* with school leaders and governors, we will challenge and support schools as they work to provide high-quality teaching in an environment where all children and young people feel valued and engage with learning to develop their independence. With schools, we aspire to the very highest standards for all children and are committed to their all-round development. We will work with all Lancashire schools, alongside a range of other services, both to help children overcome barriers to learning and to ensure that every child and young person has the chance to shine.

Where schools are good and outstanding we will support them to develop further but where they are less effective we will provide support and intervene where necessary in order to ensure that they make rapid improvement.

Our strategy for improvement is based upon the following principles:

- **Supported self-evaluation**

We recognise that it is schools which are at the centre of raising achievement and aim to support their improvement. Supported self-evaluation is key to the development of effective self managing schools: rigorous, honest and involving all stakeholders in the school community. We will provide rich data to help schools monitor and evaluate their performance and identify priorities for action.



- **Partnership working**

We will work in partnership with schools and other stakeholders including Diocesan and Church Authorities, Academy Sponsors and Professional Associations to assist schools in accessing the most appropriate support and in shaping the services we offer.

- **Leadership and management development**

We appreciate the central importance of leadership in developing effective schools and we will support the development of leadership at all levels through working with partners such as Teaching Schools and through providing opportunities for training and development. We will also offer support to governing bodies and promote succession planning to secure school leaders and governors of the future.

- **Promoting and developing school to school support and sharing best practice**

We will broker support from effective schools across Lancashire including Teaching Schools, National, Local and Specialist Leaders of Education (NLE/LLE/SLE), Associate Senior and Middle Leaders and others; sharing and developing effective practice and promoting stronger, sustainable school improvement.

- **High quality support and advice**

School advisers are central to our strategy; supporting and moderating school self-evaluation, identifying potential vulnerabilities, providing and helping to broker support from other schools and agencies. Advisers work to support schools in the development of secure self-evaluation as part of a commitment to developing effective self-managing schools. Whilst aiming to ensure that no schools fall below national floor standards or into Ofsted categories of concern, we also recognise that for most Lancashire schools, a key focus is on moving from 'good to great'.

- **Monitoring and intervention**

The LA retains a responsibility to monitor, challenge and support Lancashire schools. In Lancashire there is a tradition of this taking place in a spirit of partnership, collaboration and trust.

Key improvement priorities for education (2013-14)

Our aim as a service is to work with schools and other providers to achieve the following key priorities across the County:

- Raising the achievement of all pupils.
- Closing the gap between the achievement of vulnerable groups and their peers including pupils eligible for free school meals, CLA , pupils with special educational needs and their peers.
- Closing the achievement gap between different districts within the County.
- Increasing the proportion of schools that are judged to be good or better through OfSTED inspections and reducing the proportion judged inadequate.
- Supporting and strengthening governance.