

Framework For School Based Negotiations

At its meeting on 26 November 2002 the LNCT agreed on the importance of having an EA framework for working time arrangements which would enable all schools to finalise school based arrangements for school development and ensure that schools' improvement agenda can be effectively progressed.

The following text has been agreed by the LNCT.

The Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act 2000 places new duties on schools and education authorities regarding continuous improvement in educational standards. There is now a legislated requirement for all schools to produce on an annual basis a development plan and subsequently to report on progress made in implementing the plan and raising standards, through the production of a standards and quality report.

All schools must therefore have arrangements in place that enable schools' development plan priorities and the raising attainment agenda, and the associated subject development, to be taken forward within the context of the 5 in-service days and collegiate and subject development activities timetabled outwith the pupil day. There should also be scope for the provision of formal departmental meetings.

With specific reference to departmental meetings, all teachers work to the required maximum class contact time of 23 _ hours. Priority is given to ensuring the timetable is constructed in such a way that pupil support is maximised (for example course provision, setting arrangements where appropriate, provision of support for learning, pastoral care and tutor groups). Beyond that schools will be able to timetable Departmental Business Meetings, where scope permits, within the pupil day, or outwith the pupil day, but within the context of the 35 hour week.

The agreed framework will ensure schools have the capacity to support the implementation of school improvement strategies and develop the curriculum in accordance with development plans.