

Professional Development & Support

At MCA we offer a diverse programme of professional development to enable teachers to enrich their practice in areas that they have identified and want to develop. Professional development is closely linked to our school strategic plan and individual performance management to ensure that we are improving and enhancing the school as well as individual practice.

Throughout the school year, staff participate in a Twilight programme of professional development that has a focus on key areas. All staff are given the time and opportunity to choose a theme that they would like to research and study. The results of this work are then implemented to improve and enhance an area of their practice. There are also opportunities to share this knowledge with the whole school through our meeting and INSET programme and on many occasions whole school policy and practice has been influenced by the Twilight professional development programme.

Staff are also given the opportunity to work collaboratively with other staff and departments across the school through our meeting cycle. The collaborative meetings have a clear agenda that relates to sharing good practice to enhance provision through planned learning walks, work scrutiny opportunities and discussion and debate regarding learning, the curriculum, assessment, examination technique and classroom practice.

For Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs), our programme has been recognised as delivering the highest grading for guidance and support for our newly qualified teachers.

Our NQTs have a mentor who works in partnership with them to ensure that they continue to develop throughout the academic year. Their mentor observes lessons and provides regular feedback on the quality of their teaching as well as offering helpful advice on how to improve further.

This support programme continues once NQT status has been achieved, as staff progress into our Recently Qualified Teacher (RQT) programme to ensure that support and development is on going, as we recognise that we have different needs at different stages of our career.

For professional services staff wishing to become teachers, we have a successful School Direct programme which is delivered jointly through our close link with the University of Chichester. This programme provides an opportunity to train with us for one year and includes a second placement in another school for one half term. When accepted onto our School Direct Programme, trainees are fully integrated into our staff team and are supported to ensure that they are given every opportunity to develop the skills required to become an outstanding teacher. To date, we have a 100% pass and employment rate and we expect to see this continue in the future.