

**1. What do you think are the qualities of a good/effective teacher?**

Inspirational person, enthusiasm, has a creative approach, treats pupils as individuals, is fair, good communicator, confident, well prepared, patient, encourages independent thought, organized, fair/just, recognizes different learning styles and adapts lessons accordingly. Committed to providing effective learning and teaching, thinks outside the box, leads by example.

**2. In what ways do teachers help pupils learn?**

Imparts knowledge in ways that helps pupils understand and respond to, providing encouragement and a framework to learn in, make lessons fun and interesting, always encourage and praise pupils, offer help, be supportive, creating and maintaining a safe, stimulating environment, effective questioning, appropriate learning opportunities and resources.

**3. What can pupils do to help improve their learning?**

Develop study skills – understand the relevance of their learning, attend school regularly, take up opportunities available e.g. supported study, arrive at lessons with the correct equipment, show respect to pupils, staff and room, ask questions, listen – complete homework. Be dressed appropriately, offer ideas on how they learn, take responsibility for their learning, respect and co-operate with staff and expect the same in return.

**4. What can parents do to help encourage their child to learn?**

Take an interest in what is being done in school, make sure homework is completed, and ensure the child knows the importance of a good education. Encourage, enthuse and support, provide a quiet place to study, discuss homework, keep up to date with changes in education, spend time at home focusing on education, provide subject choice support, encourage good study habits, attend performances and events at the school.

**5. What contribution does homework play in helping pupils learn?**

Consolidates / reinforces learning, gives children a chance to work independently – not a method of catching up on coursework, highlights gaps in the child's knowledge, develops organizational skills, develops problem solving, self-discipline and time management and organization, provides a link between home and school, parents and staff.

**6. What particular type of homework is most effective?**

Relevant to learning taking place – revision of key learning points, project work, research, essays something with a tangible result.

**7. In what ways do you think supported study contributes to improved attainment for pupils?**

By showing how knowledge can be applied, opportunity for 1-2-1 tuition on topics they are concerned with, parents said they were grateful for extra support offered by staff. Sends strong signal that staff are prepared to give their time to help pupils achieve. Encourages reluctant pupils to approach staff for more help in a relaxed environment. Teaches self-discipline. Opportunity to catch up in areas that they are not sure of. Reinforces concepts / skills they are unsure of. Provides them with study techniques and ways of managing their study.

**8. What are your views on teachers observing each other as a method of improving their own teaching and the pupils' learning?**

Potential for very useful support tool – culture has to be right. Non –threatening for staff, critical friend approach, opportunity for positive modeling, role of management? Time needed for staff to discuss, implications for cover. What do the observer / observee get out of it?

**9. How has the school encouraged and stretched pupils to work to the best of their ability?**

Not well enough informed, only knew via parents evenings / reports. This only gave outcomes of assessment not how these have been achieved. Belief that there was not many pencil pushers at Graeme High. Target setting has encouraged pupils. The school seems to be constantly assessing and examining teaching practice to progress and improve. Believe its an ethos which permeates

the building. Evident that pupil's are encouraged to work to the best of their ability, relevant support is provided if needed.

**10. How can parents /carers get involved in pupils' home learning?**

Homework tasks that expect parental / family involvement – ask questions; get more regular feedback on child's performance. Encourage, take an interest, have more info about the curriculum / course and where it all fits.

**11. Do you have any ideas on how Graeme High can involve more parents in discussions about school issues such as learning and teaching?**

Perhaps working towards an end product showcasing work or presentation for parents, cross curricular working. Continue the good work being done. Inviter sample group of parents to come to meeting i.e. 'your Childs learning' conference (a la HMIE) , having open evenings giving parents the opportunity to find out what children are learning and a chance to meet staff.

**12. Is there anything you would like to ask the school about learning and teaching or are there any comments you would like to make?**

CfE greater opportunity for out of classroom, community based learning. School is doing well in financially and politically trying times, not resting on laurels and constantly trying to improve. GHS has very good reputation in some subjects but not in others. Never except mediocrity in favour of covering all the bases.