

How well are we doing?



Self-assessment standards for community school improvement

The growth of community schools can be seen throughout the world. The International Centre of Excellence for Community Schools (ICECS) supports and promotes their development and is able to offer help to those wishing to demonstrate that the work they are doing is meeting high-quality standards.

The impetus for community schools varies in different societies. In some they are seen as a vehicle for democratisation and in others for raising attainment, but everywhere they will be an essential, and sometimes the only, hub for community development. Whatever the motivation for establishing community schools, we believe that the standards we have devised will be readily understood and accepted as a core set of standards. They are already being used in nine countries, and other countries are in the process of establishing the standards in their schools. The standards relate to:

- leadership
- services
- community development
- partnership
- volunteering
- parent engagement
- social inclusion
- lifelong learning
- school culture.

These standards are set into a self-assessment framework. For each standard there is a set of indicators, and for each indicator there are descriptors, which are examples of how the standard can be met. These indicators are set out in a table format, with scores from 1 to 4. See the examples overleaf.

'This is an excellent development tool for schools dedicated to continuous improvement.'

We offer advice on how to implement the self-assessment process. We have an international team of consultants – one of whom, for a very modest fee, will help you establish these standards in your own schools through a tried and tested training programme and advice.

For further details, contact standards@icecs.com or phone **+44 07772 865504**.

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Volunteering (Pupils and adults work together to support the development of the local community, helping to make it a better place to live, work and learn.)	1	2	3	4
We have volunteering opportunities with pupils and adults (including parents) from different social groups.				
We offer training and support for volunteers.				
Our pupils have the opportunity to initiate, design and lead volunteering activities.				
Our volunteers have the chance to network with their counterparts in other areas/regions/countries.				
We monitor and evaluate our activities to ensure that they are effective.				
<i>You can add an indicator of your own here.</i>				
Comment				
Priority actions				

The big picture	1	2	3	4
Leadership				
Partnership				
Social inclusion				
Services				
Volunteering				
Lifelong learning				
Community development				
Parent engagement				
School culture				

‘An excellent tool.’

(Rhian Forsey,
E3+ Co-ordinator,
Porth County
Community School,
Rhondda Cynon Taff)