

MIICE Newsletter June 2009

Revisions to MIICE toolbox

Following an extended period of consultation and discussions, a revision has been completed to the MIICE toolbox, which remains the core of the work of the MIICE partnership. The aim have included simplifying structure and contents; MIICE now uses the same terminology as HGIOS (QI-theme-illustration); things have been cut back. There are also sample questions which might be used as a basis for interviewing young people

There are 2 main versions. The full version includes allusions to both the purposes of Curriculum for Excellence and to QIs from *How good is our school?* version 3. The basic version leaves these allusions out. In addition there is a 2 page summary and some MIICE advice

The MIICE advice builds on good practice which has been reported from 8 years of use of the original toolbox and includes the following

- Be selective: the MIICE toolbox is not like *How good is our school?* No-one expects you to go through the whole thing; it is designed to be 'dipped into'
- Use MIICE for forward planning, including articulation of success criteria for your project. MIICE has proved itself helpful for planning ahead as well as reviewing recent practice
- Use a small number of elements which are involved in the project being evaluated can bear in mind. Consider the analogy of an individualised educational programme, where focus rather than comprehensiveness is key
- Phrase questions or statements to suit the context of your project. Don't be too respectful of the example questions in the MIICE toolbox; they are just 'for instance' questions and rather general
- Consider the use of a scale to measure the extent to which you are achieving. There are a couple of sample scales later in this introduction, or you might sometimes find it helpful to use the 6-point scale familiar from *How good is our school?* Some prefer to use different scales related more precisely to the subject of each question

The broad structure of quality indicators and themes remains substantially the same as it was, with only minor revisions in language

The full set of materials, in both AppleWorks and in Word formats, is available from the Toolboxes page of the MIICE website, at <http://www.miice.org.uk/miicetoolboxes.html>

The materials can also be downloaded from the Documents page of MIICE Glow group which is now open to anyone through the national site then ICT across the curriculum, following a request for membership

The original (2001) materials remain available from the MIICE website for those who are familiar with those and want to continue to use these as a starting point for their planning or review project

Updating of presentational materials

As a result of changes in the toolbox and associated documents, there has also been some changes to the collection of presentational materials which are available from the support page of the MIICE website, at <http://www.miice.org.uk/support.html>

These support materials are intended for use as a starter for any workshops at school or EA level which might include an element explaining how MIICE might help folk to address issues of the use of ICT as part of learning. Most materials are available as AppleWorks or Word versions

Conference on 29 May 2009

The 2009 MIICE conference was held at the University of Glasgow on Friday 29 May 2009 in the St Andrew's Building which houses the university's Faculty of Education

51 people attended

- from all over Scotland: 9 from northern Scotland (Highland, islands, former Grampian and former Tayside), 15 from south-eastern Scotland (Fife, former Central, former Lothian, Scottish Borders), 25 from south-western Scotland (former Strathclyde, Dumfries and Galloway) and 2 without geographical location
- from all sectors, including many who cover several
- from schools (16), education authorities (24), universities (8) and other agencies (3)
- 24 males and 27 females

A full summary is available in the MIICE Glow group's meeting workspace, which is accessible through the Glow groups page of the MIICE group site

For those who do not (yet) have Glow access the materials are also available in the MIICE wiki. This is accessible at <http://wiki.miice.org.uk/>. You will need to use the password miice (all lower case) to get to the home page. From there click on the CONFERENCE_2009 link. The addition of the password has been necessary to prevent the wiki from being colonised by an assortment of pervs, who have been piling garbage into the wiki since it was set up in 2005

One of the interactive elements of the conference was to articulate the qualitative aspects of learning which should be enhanced by the use of Glow. A summary of the ways in which the quality of learning might improve is available as a separate Word document called Glow enhancements from either the Glow group meeting workspace or from the MIICE wiki, as above

Next meeting in September

The next meeting of MIICE partners, to consider the development priorities in the year ahead following revision of the toolbox, will be held in September, with date and venue to be arranged

Roddy Stuart, June 2009

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