

*Inter- LEA Middle Schools Forum*

***Middle Schools :***

***WORKING  
TOGETHER FOR  
EXCELLENCE***

*Stoke Rochford Hall*

*15/16 March 1991*

*Papers enclosed:*

- \* *Conference Programme*
- \* *Inter-LEA Middle Schools Forum : Statement of Aims*
- \* *National Curriculum statement and questionnaire*
- \* *Workshop outlines:*
  - A Middle Schools And The National Curriculum*
  - B The Impact of LMS Upon Middle Schools*
  - C 'Rationalising Primary Provision' (The Audit Commission) - The Middle School Response*
- \* *Extract from 'Rationalising Primary Provision'*

*Inter-LEA Middle Schools Forum*

*Middle Schools : Working Together For Excellence*

*Stoke Rochford Hall*

*15/16 March 1991*

*Programme*

**Friday 15 March 1991**

*1700 - 1800      Registration*

*Coffee*

*1800 - 1830      Introduction*

*'The Inter-LEA Middle Schools Forum : Shared Opportunities'*

*- Dennis Williams    Principal Education Officer (Bradford LEA)*

*Tape/slide sequence: The Middle School Experience 1900*

*- 2000      Dinner*

*2000 - 2130      Current Issues In The Middle School*

*- Chris Tipple    Director of Education (Northumberland LEA)*

**Saturday 16 March 1991**

*0800 - 0900      Breakfast*

*0900 - 0930      Middle Years And The National Curriculum*

*- Tony Lovatt    Headteacher    The Vale First/Middle School*

0930 - 1045     Workshops

A     *Middle Schools And The National Curriculum*

B     *The Impact of LMS Upon Middle Schools*

C     *'Rationalising Primary Provision' (The Audit Commission) -  
The Middle School Response*

1045 - 1115     *Coffee*

1115 - 1215     Workshops     (continued)

1230 - 1330     *Lunch*

1330 - 1500     *Middle Schools : Working Together For Excellence*  
*Plenary Session*

Panel:

<i>Betty Kerr</i>	<i>Headteacher</i>	<i>Crawley Ridge Middle School</i>
<i>Peter Squibb</i>	<i>Adviser</i>	<i>Northumberland LEA</i>
<i>Jeff Gough</i>	<i>Education Officer</i>	<i>Norfolk LEA</i>

1500 - 1530     Conclusion

<i>Yalerie Kenny</i>	<i>Headteacher</i>	<i>Nortbants LEA</i>
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1530     *Tea*

*Depart*

*Inter-LEA Middle Years Forum*

1. *The Forum reflects the substantial number of local education authorities with a middle school sector or which have a three-tier school system.*

*It recognizes the ethos of middle schools and their educational aims and values.*

2. *The principal aim of the Forum shall be to promote the distinctive identity of Middle school education within local and national initiatives and developments.*

3. *The Forum shall seek to meet that aim through the following objectives:*

*t to provide a focal point for discussion of educational developments and current issues in education*

*t to promote a network for the exchange of views and information*

*t to collate and disseminate information, guidance and advice for use by educational partners*

*\* to promote and encourage initiatives for training and staff development*

*\* to develop statements on educational developments*

*\* to promote coordination amongst LEAs and other educational partners on new initiatives*

*\* to act as a national contact point for information and comment*

*\* focusing upon all matters relating to middle schools and three-tier schools systems.*

*Interim operating arrangements*

- a) *Each LEA with middle schools or operating a three-tier system of schools (up to 16+) shall be entitled to appoint representatives to the Forum.*
- b) *The Forum shall establish such working groups as it deems appropriate and set terms of reference for these.*
- c) *One LEA representative shall be appointed by the Forum to exercise the role of chairman and provide secretarial and coordinating services; two LEA representatives shall be appointed as vice-chairmen.*

*These aims and the interim operating arrangements were adapted by the Forum at its meeting on Friday 2 March 1990.*

*They shall be reviewed after 12 months.*

# *INTER-LEA MIDDLE YEARS FORUM*

*Education in the Middle Years*

## *MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM*

*An outline statement produced by the  
Middle School Curriculum Working Group (January-March 1990)  
comprising middle school headteachers, inspectors/advisers and  
officers from a variety of LEAs*

*The Inter-LEA Middle Years Forum is a grouping of representatives from LEAs  
with middle schools and three-tier systems of schools. Its principal aim is to  
promote the distinctive identity of middle school education within local and  
national initiatives and developments.*

*Contact: Dennis Williams, Principal  
Education Officer Directorate of  
Education Provincial House  
Bradford BD1 1NP  
Tel: 0274752686*

## *INTER-LEA MIDDLE YEARS FORUM*

### *MIDDLE SCHOOLS AND THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM*

#### *An Outline Statement*

- 1 The three-tier system of which the middle school is the central element provides a formal organisation which is well-suited to the needs of the National Curriculum.*
- 2 A major aim of National Curriculum is to ensure continuity of education from 5-16. Testing at 7, 11 and 14 would seem to separate education into defined segments. The three tier system is able to transform this fragmented approach into a sound educational structure.*
- 3 During the middle years a gradual transition is made from mainly class based teaching to an approach requiring greater specialist support. Class-based teaching lends itself to greater subject integration and thematic approaches whilst specialists are able to provide guidance for general teachers ensuring quality of learning. An ideal marriage of primary and secondary philosophies suited to the mode of delivery required by the national Curriculum can be developed.*
- 4 Effective liaison has always been a hallmark of good Middle School education, which ensures continuity between phases. Middle Schools are not only in a position to smooth transition between schools but also to use information obtained from testing at 11 in a formative way. Key Stage 2, placed centrally as it is in the Middle years, becomes a useful diagnostic rather than terminal test, empowering teachers to plan appropriate education programme for individual children. Thus Middle Schools provide continuity within and across Key stages offering both a balanced and cohesive curriculum. It follows that, as Key Stages span phases of education, curricular liaison between schools needs to be planned and co-ordinated. Subject specialists in High and Middle Schools are able to address these issues together, trusting in each other knowledge and expertise, taking individual children forward in educational experience minimising any effect of regression at change of school.*
- 5 Middle Schools are recognised as being units which support individuals, encouraging responsibility, self esteem and inter-personal worth. Their manageable size allows children to feel they are part of a community - there is a sense of ownership - and the hidden curriculum incorporating personal and social education, helps children to cope with problems and pressures of society.*
- 6 It is for these reasons that those involved in Middle School education feel confident that they are in a sound and unique position to fulfill the demands of National Curriculum.*