Recommendations from staff

Climate

Develop an ethos of mutual respect and sense of purpose which allows students the freedom and confidence to take risks and not worry about making mistakes.
Need to abolish National Curriculum and SATs and reform most exams.
Develop a personalised curriculum with smaller class sizes, more choice in learning, electives.
Trips, journeys and expeditions - learning through exploration. Guided learning by discovery.
Every teacher has to teach a subject out of their comfort zone (one lesson) to learn new skills, feel like a pupil/child (lack of knowledge, new ideas). Take back to your own classroom or team teach across curriculum.
Chill Out Room, allowing teachers to reflect, no phones, no laptops, no interruptions, time to think creatively.
Diverse experiences – mix up groupings, appropriate accreditation rewards, various modes of assessment, get out more, use various technologies.
More flexible school day
Encourage the “what if?” attitude (both with teachers and students)
Develop open-ended questioning – where no correct answer is necessarily right
Share best practice around creative ways of working and e.g. via coaching, meetings and websites.
Abandon the word “school”. Replace with environment, spaces. School has all kinds of connotations. Learning happens everywhere. Current concept of school is restrictive. Allow more opportunities for a variety of learning experiences and contexts.

Curriculum

Less emphasis on content; more on skills and processes, opportunities to engage in problem-posing and solving.
Pooling good practice, more collaboration. Share on website. How do students communicate their learning best? How do they evaluate what they have learned?
Half a day per week per year group for variety of indoor/outdoor activities, trips, workshops. Individual time to plan more challenging thinking skills lessons.
Consider a thematic and/or skills based curriculum
Give children longer chunks of time to complete activities
Re-organise curriculum allocation to create specialist days and cross-curricular developments
Strip down the curriculum

Student Voice

Give students skills and then ask them how they may/could use them instead of formal assessment
Having a curriculum driven by children's ideas that challenges and enhances them.
Develop an open approach to teaching where students decide on what and how they would like to be taught.
Allow the students more opportunities to explore topics of interest.

Resources

Resources – e.g. freedom to use ICT when relevant, support development of new resources and learning materials, IT hardware, multimedia/new technologies.
Develop resources in terms of what we can give instead of what we have.

Time

Summer 2008

Developing creativity across the curriculum