

Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary School and Early Years Centres

IMPROVEMENT PLAN: 2025-2026





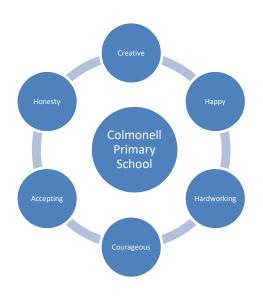
VISION - Reviewed by children, parents and staff in 2023

A safe place to be where we are responsible and respectful and have no limits to our learning.

Lifelong Limitless Learning

VALUES - new values as decided by children 2023

Wisdom Compassion Justice Integrity







Aims – Updated 2025

- > To create a safe, happy and caring environment where children, staff and parents can work together to ensure that everyone is encouraged to have a voice, is valued as a member of our school community and enable all to become confident individuals.
- > To continually encourage and support high standards of personal achievement in all aspects of life, in school and out, fulfilling each child's individual potential, enabling all to become successful learners.
- > To ensure that communication with staff, parents, children and wider community is open and transparent, making regular contact with all through newsletters, school website and involvement in wider community activities and enable all to become effective contributors.
- > To nurture our universal health and wellbeing, encouraging positive respectful behaviour in all, to allow everyone to become responsible, global citizens.
- > To inspire and support high standards of teaching and learning through continuous self-evaluation of all school work, ensuring all staff are given opportunities to continually develop their skills within a collegiate, cooperative and supportive community.

Rationale for Improvement

Key priorities of the National Improvement Framework

- \triangleright Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education $\sqrt{}$ (Learning for Sustainability)
- \succ Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing \int (Nurture)
- \triangleright Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people \int (Communication Friendly Environments)
- > Improvement in skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people \(\int \) (Learning for Sustainability -Green Skills)
- \succ Improvement in achievement, particularly in literacy and numeracy. \int (Oracy)

Our Improvement Plan, this session, focuses on the priorities of the National Improvement Framework first and foremost. Our School Improvement Plan's priorities, reflect the NIF in the following ways:

School Priority 1 - Literacy - Oracy School Priority 2 - Learning for Sustainability - Green Skills and Climate 180 School Priority 3 - Communication Friendly Environment & Nurture Cluster Priority 4 - Practitioner Enquiry PEF - Play based learning & swimming

Following our very successful implementation of 2024/25 school Improvement plan, our focus this session will be on Skills Development. Within this theme, our aim is to create progressive and coherent skills pathways in learning throughout the school, relevant to children's everyday lives and interests. Our skills focus will continue to embed Meta Skills through the Meta Skills Framework, but also begin to look at how these skills overlap with Green Skills. "In a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges it is vital that young people have the chance to develop the knowledge and skills they need to build a sustainable future." Green Skills Unlocked. Our curriculum will be responsive, and child led. Pupil voice will feature highly. In order to facilitate pupil voice we aim to build a culture of oracy throughout the school. Oracy skills are essential for primary children as they help develop effective communication, critical thinking, and social interaction. Teaching and support staff will effectively develop a skills based curriculum, based on a clear understanding of pedagogical approaches in learning and teaching, further developed through Communication Friendly Schools approach. This will be embedded within consistent, high-quality approaches across all stages in the school. Profiling children's learning and sharing learners

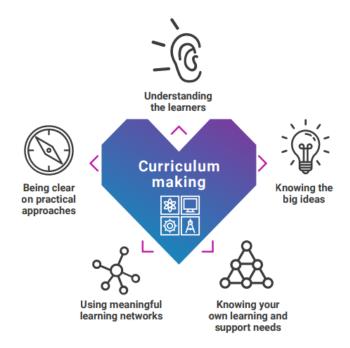
progress in all curricular areas with parents will continue through Learning Journals. Knowledge and understanding of meta skills will continue to enhance learning and teaching within all areas of the curriculum but in particular outdoor learning and play based learning.

Local Authority Improvement Planning, including South Ayrshire Reads and South Ayrshire Learns will run parallel with our own school improvement plan.

Scotland's curriculum - Curriculum for Excellence - helps our children and young people gain the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in the 21st century. Using the refreshed narrative, the School Improvement Plan will focus on the following key considerations:

How we do it

Taking curricular aims and translating them into practice is a continuous process. Getting this right is critical and this diagram sets out key considerations, activities and ways of working to support the process of curriculum making.



Self Evaluation

Returning to the Quality Indicators in HGIOS 4, will support regular on-going self-evaluation both in the Primary and in Early Years: HGIOS 4:

- Leadership and Management: How good is our leadership and approach to improvement? Particular focus on 1.2: Leadership of Learning
- Learning Provision: How good is the quality of care and education we offer? Particular focus on 2.3 Learning and Teaching
- Successes and Achievements: How good are we at ensuring the best possible outcomes for all our learners? Particular focus on 3.3 Increasing creativity and employability.

Quality Framework for Early Years:

- How good is our care, play and learning?
- How good is our setting?
- How good is our leadership?
- How good is our staff team?

A monitoring and evaluation calendar of self-evaluation activities, for both Early Years and Primary school, will support the leadership team to take a balanced and proportionate approach to Self-Evaluation and focuses on 5 key quality indicators – 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2 which will inform our Standards and Quality self-evaluation at the end of session 2025-26

This School Improvement Plan is the post implementation roundup of a three-year plan which was identified in collaboration with staff and parents. This session we will focus on Skills Development following the development of our Vision, Values and Aims; Learning, Teaching and Assessment, and Curriculum.

Year 1 - Vision, Values, Aims √ (Review of SIP 2022/23)

Year 2 - Learning and Teaching and Assessment √ (Review of SIP 2023/24)

Year 3 - Curriculum √ (Review of SIP 2024/25)

Roundup - Skills Development

Priority 1 – Literacy – Oracy					
What Outcomes Do We Want To Achieve?	How Will We Achieve This? (Intervention Strategies)	Start and Finish Dates	Personnel responsible	How Will We Measure Impact On Children and Young People? (Include Where Possible Current Measure and Target)	January 2026 Review
Teaching oracy skills to children will have a significant and positive impact on their development. Incorporating oracy education into the curriculum will lead to well-rounded development, equipping children with the skills they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. 1. Enhanced Cognitive Development 2. Improved Academic Performance 3. Increased Confidence and Self-Esteem 4. Better Social Skills 5. Preparation for Future Success 6. Enhanced Emotional Literacy	 Staff CLPL on importance of Oracy skills from Early Years to Upper Primary. English Speaking Union Resouce. Development of Oracy skills in all classes: whole school implementation of one oracy aspect each term. Staff reflection and next steps. 	September 2025 June 2025	Clare Sloan PT Ballantrae	Observation of talking and listening in classes. Staff feedback and next steps. Pupil feedback.	

Priority 2 Learning for Sustainability – Climate Change 180 and Green Skills					
What Outcomes Do We Want To Achieve?	How Will We Achieve This? (Intervention Strategies)	Start and Finish Dates	Personnel responsible	How Will We Measure Impact On Children and Young People? (Include Where Possible Current Measure and Target)	January 2026 Review
Children will become more adaptable, curious, and equipped to contribute to a sustainable and equitable future [1] with the ability to do the following: 1. Enhanced Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving 2. Increased Awareness and 3. Preparation for Future Careers 4. Socio-Emotional Development 5. Interdisciplinary Learning	 CLPL online learning with Climate Change 180 from Learning Through Landscapes Children's audit of playground. Practical workshop for playground. Key staff members to undertake Forest Kindergarten Training with Learning Through Landscapes. Engagement with local employers with a focus on Green Skills. CLPL for Teaching staff on Green Skills 	August 2025 June 2026		Questionnaires Pupils and staff Playground audit Lesson observations	

Priority 3 – Communica What Outcomes Do We Want To Achieve?	How Will We Achieve This? (Intervention Strategies)	Start and Finish Dates	Personnel responsible	How Will We Measure Impact On Children and Young People? (Include Where Possible Current Measure and Target)	January 2026 Review
 Children will experience a supportive inclusive communication friendly learning environment which supports and develops their skills in speech, language & communication Ballantrae & Colmonell Primary Schools and Early Years Centres will aim to achieve the SACFE Learning Environment badge 	 School & EYC staff will engage in professional learning led by South Ayrshire's Communication Friendly Environments Team (1 hour session - Tuesday 19th August - 1130am - Teams) Self-evaluate learning environment and practice using the South Ayrshire Communication Friendly Environments self-evaluation tool to identify strengths and next steps Staff to transition to the consistent use of Boardmaker symbols for the around the schools/EYCs, visual timetables, lanyards, trays and resources/toys 	August 2025 In-service and ongoing	Led by Yvonne Templeton Class teachers EYPs Supported by Catherine Peat & Caroline Turtle (Speech & Language Therapy)	*Children will be experiencing a supportive inclusive communication friendly learning environment which supports and develops their skills in speech, language & communication *Self-evaluation feedback and progression *Impact statements from staff, children & families *Primary Talking & Listening Data *EY Developmental Milestones Data *Achievement of the SACFE Learning Environment badge	

South Ayrshire Service Plan Priority 2: Outstanding Learning, Teaching and Assessment
We want all our children and young people to experience the highest quality learning and teaching in our schools. We are committed to ensuring a relentless focus on

learning, teaching and ass	essment at the heart of all that we do.				
ALL SOUTH AYRSHI	RE SCHOOLS 2025-2026 Actions	Intended Impact	Resources	Measures	Completion Date
	Initial meeting with HTs, SAL and Digital Team to propose a 3-year cycle to improve the quality and consistency of outdoor learning, experiential learning, and digital learning approaches across our Cluster EYCs and schools.				June 2025
To improve quality and consistency of learning, teaching and assessment	Practitioner Survey created, distributed, and completed by all relevant EYPs, and teachers involved in the Cluster Project.		Microsoft Form: Girvan Cluster Practitioner Survey.	Staff survey (pre and post).	June 2025
across all our EYCs and schools.	SAL Team to collate all baseline data and sort all practitioners into 3 groups (outdoor, experiential, and digital learning) depending on confidence level. Year 1 – least confident (rating 1-6) Year 2 – average level of confidence (rating 7-8) Year 3 – most confident (rating 9-10)			Pupil Voice.	June/August 2025
To improve quality and consistency of	HTs Inform EYPs and teachers of their group.			Classroom	
experiential learning experiences/approaches across early level and beyond.	Leadership Opportunity Key Leads to be identified to work with SAL and Digital Team throughout the Cluster Project (1 or 2 Key Leads with high level of confidence per group).	To improve the quality and consistency of outdoor learning, experiential learning		observation notes, feedback (peers, SLT).	June 2025
To improve the range and quality of outdoor	SAL and Digital Team to meet Key Leads to establish role and responsibilities. SAL, Digital Team and Key Leads to plan outdoor learning, experiential learning, and digital learning inputs x4.	and digital learning approaches across our EYCs and schools.		Staff professional	August 2025 – February 2026
learning experiences across our EYCs and schools.	Each group to meet separately. All EYPs and teachers: - attend Introduction/Training Session 1 to obtain overview of the Girvan Cluster Project: Explanation of 3-year cycle. - participate in self-evaluation activities with Cluster colleagues.			development and review process.	September 2025

	SAL, Digital Teams, and Key Leads to use self-evaluation activity information to create bespoke training sessions to meet the needs of each group. Each group to meet separately. All EYPs and teachers attend Training Sessions 2-4 led by SAL, Digital Team, and Key Leads. Test of Change			Staff planning and evaluation documents.	Sept 2025 – Jan 2026
To improve the quality and consistency or our approaches to using	All EYPs and teachers complete gap tasks between each training session in their own setting .			Tracking data on learner progress.	
digital learning. To ensure all staff have	Each group to meet separately. All EYPs and teachers attend session focusing on Enquiry led by SAL, Digital Team, and Key Leads. Expectation of showcase shared . Groups form trios . Trios agree on a line of enquiry to focus on.	To improve the quality and consistency of		Assessment data –	February 2026
access to a comprehensive professional learning	Trios participate in peer observations . SAL, Digital Team, and Key Leads support if required.	outdoor learning, experiential learning and digital learning approaches across our		summative and formative including	Feb – April 2026
offer that supports our continual drive for improvement.	Each group to meet separately. <u>Cluster Showcase</u> : All EYPs and teachers to attend and share practice with their group. All EYPs and teachers' complete self-evaluation at the end of Year 1.	EYCs and schools.	Microsoft Form: Self- evaluation	teacher professional judgement.	May 2026
	SAL Team to revisit baseline data. Sort practitioners into 3-groups (outdoor, experiential, and digital learning) for Year 2 (average level of confidence). Identify Year 2 Key Leads.				June 2026

Nurture Delivered by Educational Psychologist

Overview:

• Staff Questionnaires

Staff (both teaching and non-teaching) complete the questionnaires from the *Applying Nurture as a Whole School Approach* document. Their responses help identify which of the six nurture principles to focus on.

• Focused Implementation

The school then chooses two principles to prioritise over the academic year. Staff use a *practitioner enquiry* model to test out small, practical changes in their own contexts that align with those principles.

Professional Learning Inputs

I deliver input sessions on both the selected nurture principles and the practitioner enquiry process, helping to build confidence and support staff in planning and delivering their projects.

Below is a rough timeline of how this could look across the year—totally flexible and open to adapting based on your context and priorities:

TERM	ACTIVITY
TERM 1	✓ Staff questionnaires shared and collected (August INSET could work well for this).
	✓ EP to carry out sample observations in the EYC and selected primary classes using the observation schedule from the Applying
	Nurture as a Whole School Approach resource.
	✓ Questionnaire responses and observations used to help identify two nurture principles to focus on.
	✓ EP can support with analysis and interpretation of the data.
TERM 2	✓ Two EP input sessions:
	1. On the selected nurture principles
	2. Practitioner enquiry overview
	✓ Staff use the APDR model (Assess, Plan, Do, Review) to plan small-scale projects—these can be individual, group or whole-class
	initiatives tailored to their context.
	✓ Projects planned before the Christmas break, ready to roll out in Term 3.
	✓ EP can support with identifying useful pre/post measures for evaluating impact.
TERM 3	✓ Implementation of small projects
	✓ Mid-point check in with EP to offer any guidance etc.
TERM 4	✓ EP check in.
	✓ This term focus on
	→ Staff gather post measures to review impact.
	→ Session to share projects, reflect linking to prioritised nurture principles.
	→ Option to identify the next two principles to focus on in the following session.

Appendix

Staff - Ballantrae	Staff - Colmonell
HT – Yvonne Templeton	HT – Yvonne Templeton
PT – Clare Sloan	PT – Kimberley Mackintosh
Class Teacher – Michaela Brough	Class Teacher – Peter Low (0.5 fte)
Class Teacher – Sarah Gregg	Class Teacher – Natalie Howie (0.6fte)
	Class Teacher – Erin Houston
Class Teacher – Jade McKane (0.6)	
EYP – Anna Kosak	EYP – Louise Shedden
EYP – Bonnie Clark	EYP – Emma Gibson (0.6FTE)
EYP – Amy Mackintosh	EYP – Margaret McNeill (0.4FTE)
EYP – Gillian Baillie (P1/2) PEF and EYP 0.4 fte	Support Staff –
Support Staff – Jade Holden	



How Good is our Care, Play and Learning?

Quality Indicator 1.1 – Nurturing Care and Support

Goal: Enhance children's active involvement in play and learning through a balance of spontaneous and planned high-quality experiences.

to achieve? Children's learning, development and wellbeing will be created, collegiately with Senior Management and EY staff. HEGS 1.31 - "As a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and natural materials." HSCS 1.27 - "I am supported to children's interest and developed through a balance of organised and natural materials." HSCS 1.27 - "I am supported to children's interest and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, including open-ended and natural materials." HSCS 1.37 - "I am supported to achieve mp potential in education and employment if this is right for me" Louise Shedden September 12th September 12th Coules September 12th Coules Shedden September 12th Coules Sh
development and wellbeing will be fully supported by ensuring that observations are meaningful and clearly linked to children's interests and developmental stages. HSCS 1.31 – "As a child, my social and physical skills, confidence, self-esteem and creativity are developed through a balance of organised and freely chosen extended play, including open-ended and natural materials." HSCS 1.27 – "I am supported to achieve my potential in education and employment if this is right for me" Observation, planning and tracking by Senior Management and Early Years Staff. Louise Shedden Emma Gibson Margaret McNeill Youne Templeton Early Years Staff – Louise Shedden Emma Gibson Margaret McNeill Youne Templeton Early Years Staff. Minutes of EY Years meetings. Children's voice in planning and Learning Journals. Parental views from monthly questions and focus group for improvement. EY staff – Louise Shedden EY staff – Louise Shedden Fortnightly planning meetings will take place with all staff present to review provision, children's learning, and next steps. Introduction of a daily rolling snack, within the playroom. Fortnightly planning meetings will take place with all staff present to review provision, children's learning, and next steps. Introduction of a daily rolling snack, within the playroom. Fortnightly planning on tracking by Senior Management and Early Years Staff. Minutes of EY Years meetings. Children's voice in planning and tracking by Senior Management and Early Years Staff. Minutes of EY Years McAllel Minutes of EY Years staff. Staff will work collegiately to evaluate observations to develop an understanding of what makes them meaningful. Fortnightly planning meetings will take place with all staff present to review provision, children's leave planning and tracking by Senior Management and Ext years Staff. Minutes of EY Years Staff.
and Nurture Principles.

 CLPL from Speech and 		
Language Therapy on		
Communication Friendly		
Environments		

Quality Indicator 1.3 – Play and Learning

Goal: Ensure play is purposeful, engaging and supports progression in learning.

What outcome(s) do we want to	How will this be achieved?	Person(s)	Timescales	What will this look like?
achieve?	(tasks, training, developments etc)	responsible	(to be completed by)	How will the impact be measured? (include appropriate measures and targets)
Children's imagination is nurtured	All outdoor provision will be	Yvonne Templeton -	October 25th	Outdoor Provision Policy, including
through thoughtful innovation	reviewed and assessed by	HT	2025	Forest Kindergarten.
and creative play and learning	EY staff and Senior	Early Years staff:		Planning records for outdoor
approaches. Their language,	Management. As a result of	Emma Gibson		experiences and their evaluations.
literacy, and numeracy skills are	this review a clear rational,	Margaret McNeill		
strengthened through engaging,	implementation strategies	Louise Shedden		Evaluations of play experiences
play-based learning experiences	and guidance will support	Emma Gibson EYP		developing literacy and numeracy.
that are rich in meaning and	staff to engage children in			Tracking and monitoring of children's
purpose.	outdoor play will be			progress in Milestones and CfE
HSCS 1.31 – "As a child, my social	created. Forest			benchmarks for Literacy and Numeracy.
and physical skills, confidence,	Kindergarten will be	Louise Shedden EYP		Monitoring records of observations of
self-esteem and creativity are	reinstated within the local			children's learning in the outdoor
developed through a balance of	community.			environment.
organised and freely chosen		Yvonne Templeton –		Monitoring records of planning and
extended play, including open-	Key staff will undertake	HT		children's experiences recorded in
ended and natural materials."	Local Authority training on			Learning Journals.
	mathematical development.			Monitoring records of Personal Planning.

HSCS1.27 – "I am supported to		Nita Fergusson LA		
achieve my potential in education	Three Read Approach will	lead		
and employment if this is right for	be reinstated supported by			
me"	Blooms Buttons questions			
	Stems.			
	Local authority training for			
	EY staff in Phonological			
	Awareness and PATHS			
	programme.			

How Good is our Setting?

Quality Indicator 2.2 – Children Experience High Quality Facilities

Goal: Ensure children's safety and access to secure, well-maintained facilities.

What outcome(s) do we want	How will this be achieved?	Person(s)	Timescales	What will this look like?
to achieve?	(tasks, training, developments etc)	responsible	(to be completed by)	How will the impact be measured? (include appropriate measures and targets)
Children's creativity,	Local Authority will repair	Yvonne Templeton	October 10 th	Ventilation will meet required guidelines.
engagement and learning	nappy changing ventilation to	HT to contact Local	2025	
through play is enhanced	meet guidance.	Authority.		
through range and quality of	See 1.3 re outdoor learning.	Yvonne Templeton	October 25 th	Review and update of risk assessments.
resources available.	Risk assessments will be	HT and EY staff.	2025	Risk/benefit analysis reviews.
Children will be curious, use	updated to reflect provision.			Monitoring records of accidents and
their imagination and be able	Staff will be made aware of			incidents.
to solve problems.	the need to be proactive			Monitoring records of H&S daily/monthly
HSCS 2.27 – "As a child, I can	when identifying risk.			check-ins.
direct my own play and	Daily/weekly review of	Early Years Staff	September	Monthly monitoring records of play-room
activities in the way that I	resources. Zone planning to	Louise Shedden	25 th 2025	experiences and resources available to
choose and freely access a	ensure consumables are	Emma Gibson		children.
wide range of experiences and	replaced when required and	Margaret McNeill		Monitoring of children's experiences in
resources suitable for my age	staff know their roles.			planning records and Learning Journals.
and stage, which stimulate my				

natural curiosity, learning and	Review and purchase of	Early Years staff.	October 25 th	Termly monitoring of resources.
creativity."	resources which are open-	Louise Shedden	2025	Health and Safety monitoring.
HSCS 1.31 – "As a child, my	ended and age appropriate.	Margaret McNeill		Monitoring of infection control cleaning and
social and physical skills,		Emma Gibson		repair rota.
confidence , self-esteem and				Parent comments from fortnightly
creativity are developed				meetings.
through a balance of organized				Children's voice in planning.
and freely chosen extended				
play, including using open-				
ended and natural materials."				

How good is our Leadership?

Quality Indicator 3.1 – Quality Assurance and improvements are led well. Goal: Embed robust systems for continuous improvement and Evaluation.

What outcome(s) do we want	How will this be achieved?	Person(s)	Timescales	What will this look like?
to achieve?	(tasks, training, developments etc)	responsible	(to be completed by)	How will the impact be measured? (include appropriate measures and targets)
Outcomes for all children are positive through strengthened quality assurance processes. Positive outcomes for children are clearly linked to staff involvement in self-evaluation and identification of improvement targets.	Our Early Years Vision and Values will be revised and updated with parents, children and staff.	Yvonne Templeton HT	October 25 th 2025	Our vision, values and aims will be displayed in the Early Years, Handbook and shared with all parents in a Newsletter. Observations of staff interactions records. Shared findings in newsletter. Evaluation of Centre Improvement Plan on a termly basis.

HSCS 4.19 – "I benefit from a culture of continuous improvement, with the organisation having robust and transparent quality assurance processes." HSCS 4.11 – "I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice."				
	Monthly self-evaluation meetings linked to Quality Indicators and feedback from children and parents.	Yvonne Templeton HT	June 30 th 2026	Minutes of meetings. Observations of play experiences and children's interactions. Parental feedback. Children's voice in planning.
	Fortnightly self-improvement visits in setting which include visits from Local Authority key staff, Head Teacher, other Early Years staff from partner EY setting.	Yvonne Templeton HT	June 30 th 2026	Plan of visits and focus for visits. Feedback from visits. Records of Parental Involvement in selfevaluation, questionnaires, fortnightly focus meetings. Evaluation of self-improvement plans.

How good is our Staff Team?

Quality Indicator 4.3 – Staff Deployment

Goal: Improve communication and consistency in staffing for children and families.

What outcome(s) do we want to achieve?	How will this be achieved? (tasks, training, developments etc)	Person(s) responsible	Timescales (to be completed by)	What will this look like? How will the impact be measured? (include appropriate measures and targets)
Children's learning experiences	Introduction of the National	Yvonne	30 th June 2026	Monitoring and tracking of children's
and outcomes will be enhanced	Induction Resource (2023) to	Templeton HT to		experiences. Planning records, self-
by confident staff who are	support monthly	facilitate.		evaluation records, Learning Journals
highly skillful in planning for and				reviews.

tracking progress in rich,	mentoring/self-evaluation	Feedback from staff.
engaging learning	meetings.	Feedback from parents.
environments.		Children's views
HSCS 3.14 – "I have confidence	Monthly Self-evaluation	Monitoring of planning and interaction with
in people because they are	meetings using Quality	children and their parents.
trained, competent and skilled,	Improvement Framework.	Evaluation of self-improvement plans.
are able to reflect on their		PRD plans and evaluations.
practice and follow their		
professional and organisational		
codes."		