

www.ncsl.org.uk

Self-evaluation:

A guide for school leaders

Pack contents

School Self-evaluation: A Reflection and Planning Guide for School Leaders

School Self-evaluation: Models, Tools, and Examples of Practice

School Self-evaluation: Background, Principles and Key Learning

The heightened emphasis within the New Relationship with Schools on self-evaluation has led NCSL to provide guidance materials in the form of this pack. It adopts the stance that, whilst schools are required to enter judgements concerning the school's standards and performance across a range of aspects on the new Ofsted self-evaluation form (SEF), it is the integrity of the evaluative processes undertaken, and the reasoning behind their adoption, which are at the core of school self-evaluation.

This pack therefore aims to help school leaders:

- take stock of their school's existing self-evaluation practice and consider future practice
- reflect on the background of self-evaluation, its guiding principles and consider how these relate to what the school does and why
- assess tools, materials and examples of practice and consider how these might inform and be used to develop the school's practices

The three parts are complementary and provide a holistic viewpoint on school self-evaluation that bridges theory and practice.

How to use the pack

A Reflection and Planning Guide for School Leaders draws on the presentations and thinking generated at a Leading Practice seminar in asking school leaders to consider:

- What self-evaluation processes do we currently use?
- What do others use?
- What might we do differently?

It offers guidance and stimulates thinking through a series of questions and activities focused on evaluating one's own school's existing processes and practices.

Models, Tools and Examples of Practice is written by John MacBeath. It draws on his research and development of tools to guide leaders in considering:

- Which tools might we use in our school for self-evaluation?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of these approaches and how might they help us carry out self-evaluation more effectively?
- What can we learn from the experience of others?

Background, Principles and Key Learning is written by John MacBeath. It provides an overview of self-evaluation and explores its importance within the school improvement agenda. It aims to develop understanding of its principles and invites school leaders to reflect on:

- What is self-evaluation?
- What gains does it bring?
- What can we learn from experience, here and abroad?

Taken together, they guide the school leader through the what, why and whom questions to arrive at an informed position on which to lead their school in this area.