

# Quality in Education

## Mutual visitations

Introduction by Thijs Veraart,  
Headmaster Sint-Maartenscollege



Adapted and presented by

Aad Hendriks

- Former student ('57-'63) and teacher ('66-'68) at the same school
- Colleague headmaster (1988-2007)
- Involved in Semper Movens and the development of the "mutual visitations"
- Organizer Study Visit "Quality in Education"

## Vertical accountability

- Interest in quality started ± 1990
- Ministry of Education
- Inspection
- Every school year a quality card:
  - Results / promotion records
  - Marks at final examinations
- Visitations by inspector

## Visitations by inspection

- At least once in 4 years
- Results/Quality card
- Discussion with management /teachers /parents /students /schoolboard
- Visitation of lessons
- Conclusions in a discussion with schoolmanagement
- Report / comment / final report
- Published on Internet

## Domains/areas investigated

- Yield or results.
- Presentation of curriculum
- Enough time for learning
- Pedagogical handling
- Didactic handling
- Active participation of students
- Guidance schoolcareer
- Guidance students special care
- Quality care
- Schooling and team development
- Appropriate investment of resources
- Schoolclimate
- Functional external contacts
- Integration of ICT

## Horizontal accountability

- School: teachers, students, parents
- Partner schools: primary and secondary schools
- SchoolBoard
- Continuation courses (university)

## Quality policy

- School plan (4 years)
  - Planning of activities
  - Each year: SMART
- Self-evaluation/assessment
  - Plan Do Check Act
- Survey: students, teachers, parents

## Self evaluation

- Private company
- All kinds of educational investigations
- All webbased questionnaires
- Results with (national) benchmarking
- Results can be linked to several systems
- Rather cheap

## Association Semper Movens

- 11 related schools: secondary lower and higher general education
- Roman Catholic and/or Protestant schools
- Co-operation Human Resource manag.
- Co-operation quality policy (since 5y)
- Mutual visitations (since 2 years ago)

## Organization

- 2 groups of 5 – 6 schools
- Each group: 2 visitations a year
- Cycle = 3 years
- Visitations Committee
  - Each school 1 member
  - Independent (=external) chairman and secretary for both schoolgroups

## Training the committee

- Role and task members
- Role and task chairman and secretary
- How to ask questions
- Way of making conversation
- How to come to a shared opinion

## Set up

- Investigation of 3 main subjects, proposed by the school which will be visited:
  - A strong subject
  - A subject in development
  - A subject to be improved
- For instance:
  - Counselling students, coaching (new) teachers, safety at school, moving up students, projects of innovation, rules at school
- (Now more focus on visitations of lessons)

## Schoolvisit

- Preparation by school and visiting team
- Tools: school plan, self-evaluation, school guide, all relevant information
- Visit: observations and discussions with management, teachers, students, parents
- Final report with recommandations
- Publication by schoolmanagement
- Choice of priorities by schoolmanagement

## Discussion

- Good cooperation in Semper Movens
- Inspiring confidence
- A lot of investment of time
- More advice (colleagues) instead of judgement (inspection)
- ?? (your questions)

## Future visitations

- More assessment by Semper Movens
  - Changing the way of visitation?
  - Visiting lessons?
  - More emphasis on educational process
  - Network: do we have enough schools?
  - Only basic supervision by inspection?
- Continuous learning process