

### ASSESSMENT, RECORDING & REPORTING

AR&R continued with more significant initiatives within the ESF during 2000-2001.

On a recommendation by the group to introduce more uniformity in specific areas of AR&R within ESF, a meeting was arranged with the Education Officers and the Primary Principals in October 1999. It was agreed that the Primary Schools would trial the use of QCA tests in 2000-2001. Over the past year the AR&R group has been involved in coordinating these trials and reprinting the QCA materials ready for schools to use. Many thanks to Simon Walton who helped organize this.



## ASSESSMENT, R & R



The AR&R group has worked again in organizing and assisting with the running of the Primary Moderation days and has also assisted Andrea Brittan, one of the new Cross Phase Advisory teachers, with the Cross Phase days. Many thanks to all those core-curriculum colleagues who ran the days and helped make them both successful and productive. Many primary schools have reviewed their parental reporting procedures over the past year and followed the recommendations of this group in using the QCA guidelines on this matter. We are still reviewing and updating the ESF Assessment, Recording and reporting Policy and hope to complete this soon. Maria Serafim will be the new AR&R chairperson next year and will be taking the lead on our new focus on raising standards and enhancing pupil performance through teacher assessment.

### Using computers for reports

Andy Statham (Island School) and Iain Checkland (KGV) have shared their expertise to write custom software for reporting in their own schools.

KGV have been gradually phasing in a fully computerised reporting system, with a range of facilities for speeding up the writing and checking of reports. As well as making staff time savings, the system also aims to improve the quality of reports sent home and to significantly reduce the amount of wasted paper. The system is currently being further developed for use over the internet; staff will be able to access the system from home from October.

Contact Iain at [igc@kgv.edu.hk](mailto:igc@kgv.edu.hk) for a demonstration.

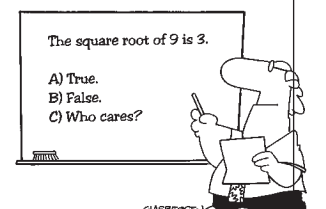
Island School reports program was written in MS Access some years ago and has gradually been modified. As part of ICT development all staff had to write their first (short) reports using the program in the first term. Only a few chose to write their final reports by hand. Currently Andy is developing a front-end to allow staff to access reports from home over the Internet. This will be available from September 2001.



### QCA TESTS

Over the past year most Primary Schools have trialed the QCA tests. Although, the tests have presented some problems in terms of the time it has taken for teachers to mark and moderate, in general it has been felt that the diagnostic value of the tests has made this extra work worthwhile. The QCA tests are regarded by the group to be a significant improvement on some of the home grown assessments that have been used in the past. The tests also have an advantage over NFER tests that some schools use, for several reasons. They are based on the National Curriculum that ESF Primary schools follow. They can give a National Curriculum level in addition to a standardized score. They can provide class teachers, coordinators and senior management with a wealth of diagnostic information that can greatly assist with forward planning for the individual student, class, year group and school. In terms of cross phase liaison they could provide a common assessment for both ESF Primary and Secondary schools as they span both Key Stages two and three. In addition, these tests have been well researched and designed, the QCA has attempted to make them as user friendly as possible, both for the student and administrator. With the exception of mathematical money questions, efforts have been made to keep the tests culturally unbiased and the language used simple and accessible. Schools that trialed the tests actually reported that pupils enjoyed doing them! There are still many issues to be resolved concerning the use of the QCA tests, particularly when they are conducted and how the information they generate can be used in a constructive and sensitive manner. This is an area that the AR&R Group hope to examine in the coming year.

Nick Manley / BHS



Many students actually look forward to Mr Manley's Maths tests

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