

# PPT 3.6 Principles of interviewing

Frank Crawford
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# **Principles**

- Open
- Fair
- Rigorous
- Respectful
- Confidential
- Consistent





### **Process**

- Contribute to overall evidence base
- Keep focused
- Use a variety of questions
- Decide on theme/gaps in evidence
- Agree structure and timing (both in day and in rhythm of the inspection which may be fixed for small schools)
- Conduct interview based on positive relationships and mutual respect – smile!
- Manage time well
- Provide immediate summary/feedback
- Record and share





### Types of questions

- Open-ended useful and engaging, can be timeconsuming eg "What do you think about ....."
- Situational help to get interviewees thinking eg "How well does the school handle ...."
- Self-evaluative can triangulate evidence already gathered eg "What do you think parents would say...."
- Direct can find out specific pieces of evidence eg "What led the school to introduce ...."
- Multiple choice can help to elicit views and attitudes, for example, to change eg "If you were to choose between ..."
- Yes or no limited use





### A few questions for students

- What advice would you give to a new student joining the school?
- What are the top three things you like about the school?
- If you were the principal, what three things about the school would you change and why?





### A few questions for staff

- What advice would you give to a new teacher joining the school?
- What top three things would you describe to persuade a parent to bring their child to your school?
- If you were the principal, what three things about the school would you change and why?





### A few questions for parents

- What advice would you give to a new parent bringing their child to the school?
- What top three things would you describe to persuade another parent to bring their child to the school?
- If you were the principal, what three things about the school would you change and why?





#### Structure of interview

- Welcome and introduction
- Explain confidentiality issue, not the person
- Use people's names
- Describe the process
- Outline any focus (eg among teaching and learning, ethos, curriculum, school organization and management)
- Manage the discussion through questions
- Handle awkward answers carefully
- Ask for views not already given
- Give immediate feedback/points of interest
- Thank you and closure





# GA 3.4/GA 3.5 Structuring the interview with: students, staff, teachers and parents

Frank Crawford
Belgrade, June 14<sup>th</sup> 2010





# Structuring interviews - teachers

- Examine the emerging evidence from the first day and documentation (use emerging evidence handout)
- You will interview a group of teachers for half-anhour
- Plan your interview
- Write out some questions that you will use in the role play exercises (GA 3.6)





# Structuring interviews - students

- Examine the emerging evidence from the first day and documentation (use emerging evidence handout)
- You will interview a group of senior students for half-an-hour
- Plan your interview
- Write out some questions that you will use in the role play exercises (GA 3.7)





# Structuring interviews - parents

- Examine the emerging evidence from the first day and documentation (use emerging evidence handout)
- You will interview a group of parents who have children across all year groups
- The interview will be for half-an-hour
- Plan your interview
- Write out some questions that you will use in the role play exercises





# Structuring interviews - staff

- Examine the emerging evidence from the first day and documentation (use emerging evidence handout)
- You will interview a group of staff including the librarian, school secretary and janitor
- Plan your interview
- Write out some questions that you will use in the role play exercises





# GA 3.6/GA 3.7 Interviewing teachers, students, staff and parents

Agnes Vosse; Frank Crawford Belgrade, June 14th 2010





### Interviews – role play

- The person being interviewed should read the inspectors notes of an inspection as a briefing to role play as a student, teacher, parent or member of staff (use inspectors' notes handout)
- Use the questions you developed in group work exercises GA 3.4 and GA 3.5
- Conduct the interview in the given time, ensuring you have notes that you can share with the rest of the inspection team

