

Assessing the impact of careers education at RMA

Why is it important?

Assessing the impact of the careers curriculum at Rushey Mead Academy is crucial for several reasons, all of which contribute to ensuring students are well-prepared for their future pathways.

Here's a summary of its importance:

1. Ensures Continuous Improvement

Rushey Mead Academy evaluates its careers programme annually to identify strengths and areas for development. This process includes feedback from students, parents, teachers, and employers through surveys and focus groups. The insights gathered help refine the curriculum to better meet student needs.

2. Aligns with National Standards

The school uses the Gatsby Benchmarks and the Careers Development Institute Framework as foundational tools. These nationally recognized standards ensure that the careers education provided is comprehensive, consistent, and effective.

3. Involves Stakeholder Engagement

An evaluation stakeholder group, chaired by the school's Enterprise Adviser, reviews evidence and provides feedback. This collaborative approach ensures that the careers curriculum reflects the perspectives of all key stakeholders, including business professionals.

4. Uses Data-Driven Tools

Rushey Mead employs the Compass Plus Tool, which helps analyse and evaluate careers activities against best practice benchmarks. This supports strategic planning and helps track progress over time.

5. Promotes Student Voice

The school conducts an annual Future Skills Questionnaire during key transition years. This ensures that students' views are considered in shaping the careers programme, making it more relevant and engaging.

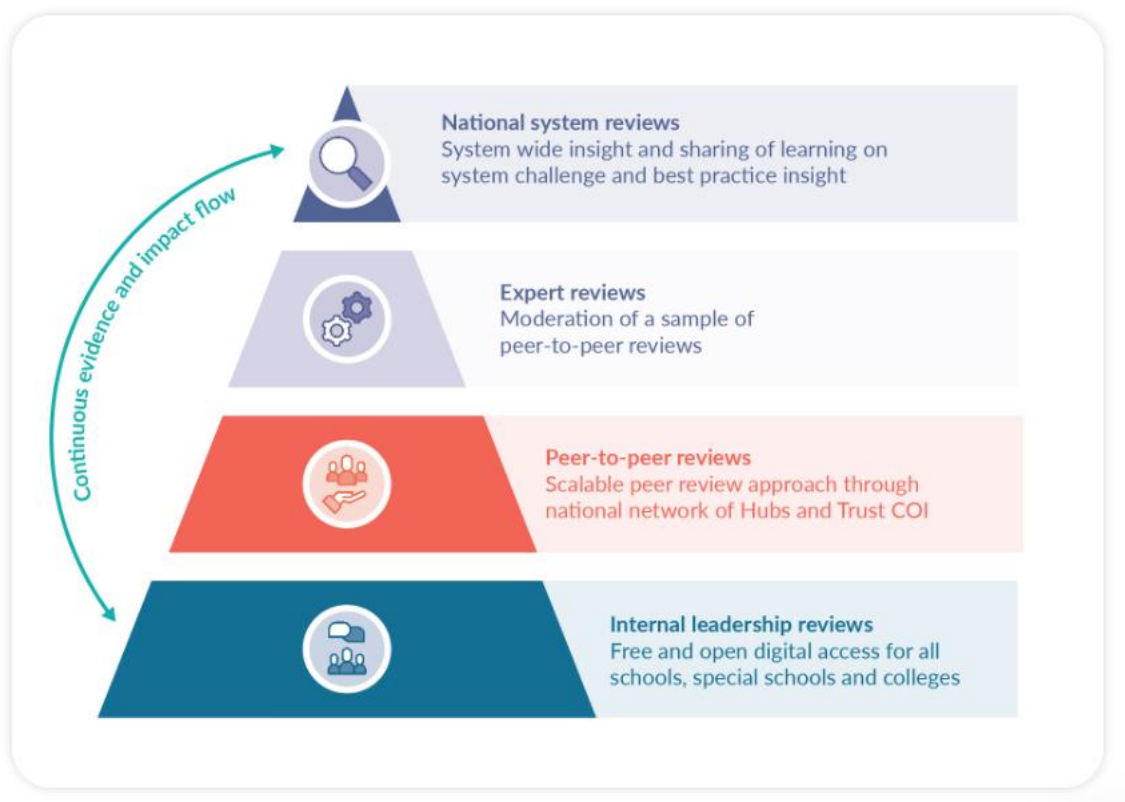
6. Measures Real Impact

The school assesses key performance indicators linked to its vision and desired outcomes for students. This includes evaluating what was delivered versus what was planned, and how effectively it was implemented.

What is the Careers Impact System?

The Careers Impact System is a step-by-step staged and integrated approach to improving and assuring quality in the careers system, with peer and expert support all the way through. It is founded on the following approach:

1. **Internal leadership reviews** - undertaken by and within schools and colleges bringing together key colleagues to examine current performance, identify what good looks like and how best to achieve it.
2. **Peer-to-peer reviews** - administered regionally at scale through trained Careers Hub or Trust facilitators - involves Careers Leaders in a local area sharing practice and progress against the Benchmarks to identify what works well and areas for improvement.
3. **Expert reviews** – administered centrally to moderate the peer-to-peer approach and to inform continuous improvement of the Careers Impact System and to feed into longer term impact evaluation.
4. **National system reviews** – a deeper dive into exploring system-wide themes, good practice and shared challenges which build system wide intelligence to influence targeted action for improvement to encourage whole system improvement.



(Information provided by [The Careers & Enterprise Company](#))