St Bonaventure has applied successfully for a government grant that will enable the English department to improve the quality of teaching and learning over the next six years, starting from the 2008-2009. Sustainability, i.e. implementing measures and strategies whose effects can last far beyond the life span of our proposal, is our main concern.

Our aims for practice improvement were identified as a result of both external inspections and internal reviews carried out by all members of the English department. They relate to teaching, learning and curriculum. The English department aims to:

**Teaching**

a) *develop* an ever increasing capacity of the members of the English Department to respond proactively to changes in the external environment, especially as regards changes to the English curriculum in the years to come

b) *develop* an organisational culture of collaborative learning within the department that reflects collective ownership of both the school and the department’s strategic goals
Learning

c) improve our students’ results in formal external assessments year on year (TSA, HKCEE, HKALE)
d) improve our students’ confidence, and use of communication, critical thinking and creative skills in English (from last ESR)

Curriculum

e) improve the way all students at SBC learn English, by building significant opportunities into the formal and informal English curriculum that cater for different levels of proficiency and ability
f) develop assessment tools/approaches that recognise that students have different learning styles and learn at different speeds

2. Practice improvement strategies

The following diagram summarises how the aims above translate into improvement strategies. They were designed to a) build on what we already have both in terms of formal and informal curriculum and improve it - horizontal coherence - and b) follow on from and reinforce each other over the duration of the programme.