Action Research

Action research can be defined as research carried out within your practice to improve pedagogy to support student attainment and achievement. Action research is an enquiry method that helps you to interrogate and reflect on your own practice. Action research can be carried out individually or in collaboration with others. When teachers write lesson plans or develop academic programs, they are engaged in the action planning process so the process is not unfamiliar.

Step 1: Identifying the Focus

What element(s) of my/our practice or what aspect of student learning do we wish to investigate?

Step 2: Use research to inform your thinking

What is already know in this area?

Step 3: Identify your specific focus

Generate a set of meaningful research questions to guide the inquiry.

Step 4: Plan and implement your intervention

What change are you going to make?
How will you measure the impact of this change?

Step 5: Gather Data

Most teacher researchers use a process called *triangulation* to enhance the validity and reliability of their findings by using multiple data sources.
There is lots of evidence already in everyday practice so the key to managing triangulated data collection is, first, to be effective and efficient in collecting the data available to you on a daily basis, and, second, to identify other sources of data for example tests, classroom discussions, or questionnaires.

Step 6: Analyzing Data

What is the story told by these data sources?
Why did the story play itself out this way?

Step 7: Evaluate and report the results

How does the data story support the pupils' attainment and achievement?

How does it support your learning?

The reporting of action research usually happens in informal settings or by a written report but choose the way which is most helpful for you.

Step 8: Taking Informed Action

Your learning can be applied in other area and then you can start to identify whether you need to deepen your learning in this area or change focus to another area for development.