

Resource Activity 5 - Evaluating your current partnerships with your community

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Now you should examine one of the community partnerships that operates in your school. It may be a very minor relationship that you have with a local business or it may be a more significant partnership with an NGO where you share facilities. Consider the prompts in Figure 4 to evaluate the impact of this partnership on your students' learning and whether you might be able to gain more from working together.

Make notes in your Learning Diary using a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) grid as shown in Figure 4. You may want to involve staff, parents and the partner in this evaluation.

<p>Strengths</p> <p>List all the good things about the partnership, taking care to consider the impact on student learning</p>	<p>Weaknesses</p> <p>List any downsides of the partnership that make it difficult to run</p>
<p>Opportunities</p> <p>List the things that are not currently happening that might happen – again, think specifically about improving student learning</p>	<p>Threats</p> <p>List anything that gets in the way of the partnership working as well as it might</p>

Figure 4 A SWOT grid for evaluating the partnerships that your school has with your community.

Discussion

This simple grid can be very helpful in analysing exactly what is working in a partnership and where improvements could be made. You can find more information on SWOTs in the additional resource section of this unit.

- Has the grid helped you in identifying some areas where you could improve the impact of the partnership on student learning? This could then form the basis of a set of recommendations to your SMC or help you make some decisions about priorities.

- Do you think you could use the grid with the SMC before formulating the school development plan with them? Maybe this would help you to take forward this important work more easily and convince the SMC about the needs and priorities of the school.