

## Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Preparing for the national funding formula and implementing the School Admissions Code

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Venue: Johnnie Walker Room, The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**

Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 - 9.35 **Implementing the new School Admissions Code**

**Dr Elizabeth Passmore**, Chief Schools Adjudicator, Office of the Schools Adjudicator

Questions and comments from the floor

9.35 - 10.25 **Putting the new Code into practice: the impact on pupils, parents and schools**

*What steps are schools and local authorities taking to ensure the smooth implementation of the new School Admissions Code; has the Code achieved its aim of ensuring "a fair and straightforward admissions system that promotes equity and fair access for all"? To what extent is the introduction of a national primary school 'offer day' from April 2014 likely to achieve the twin aims of greater co-ordination among schools and reduced uncertainty for parents? What has been the initial impact of making exceptions to Infant Class Size regulations for certain pupils, and what steps are schools taking to mitigate the potential negative effects of larger class sizes this might cause? What effect has granting academies and free schools greater freedoms over admissions policy had on nearby maintained schools? Will allowing schools to manage their own in-year admissions improve parental choice, and what are the challenges of co-ordination between local authorities and schools that choose to exercise this option? Does the restriction on random allocation in the Code reduce the ability to ensure ethnic and socio-economic diversity of school intakes? Should the limit to the "faith intake" for free schools and academies be extended to voluntary-aided faith schools; what criteria should schools be allowed to consider as evidence of religious activity?*

**John Walker**, Solicitor, J A Walker and Consultant, Nelsons

**Paul Barber**, Director, Catholic Education Service

**Elizabeth Phillips**, Headteacher, St Marylebone CE School, London

**Councillor Ralph Berry**, Lead Member for Children and Young People, Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 - 10.30 **Chairman's closing remarks**

Senior Parliamentarian

10.30 - 10.50 Coffee

10.50 - 10.55 **Chairman's opening remarks**

**Robin Walker MP**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Education Governance and Leadership

10.55 - 11.25 **Improving financial efficiency and decision-making in schools**

*How can individual schools achieve greater financial efficiency as Government moves to "achieve maximum delegation" of school funding; what further training is needed for school governors to enable them to hold school expenditure to account? Would a 'benchmarking report card' and a single indicator of school efficiency, both suggested by the Review of Efficiency in the School System, improve comparison of schools' financial and performance data; what formats should these take? To what extent would the Review's recommendation of a real-time procurement benchmarking tool help schools achieve value for money? What would be the impact of start-up grants to clusters of primary schools for a school business manager; should these be for longer than the one year proposed in the Review?*

**Kerry Brimfield**, National SBM Advocate, National College for Teaching and Leadership and Director of Finance and Operations, Dyson Perrins Church of England Academy, Worcestershire

**Stephen Morales**, Executive Director-elect, National Association of School Business Management

**Kent Hadley**, Lead Consultant, School Finance Consultancy

Questions and comments from the floor

11.25 - 11.55 **School funding reform: preparing for a national funding formula**

**Peter Lauener**, Chief Executive, Education Funding Agency

Questions and comments from the floor

11.55 - 12.05 **Fairness in school funding**

**Luke Sibieta**, Programme Director, Education Sector, Institute of Fiscal Studies

12.05 - 12.55 **Changes to school funding: formulae, fairness and transparency**

*Perspectives on funding arrangements for 2014/15, and Government's announcement that it will introduce a national funding formula from September 2015. In what ways are local authorities simplifying their funding formulae ahead of the national funding formula? How prepared are local authorities to meet the requirement from 2014/15 to allocate a minimum of 80% of delegated schools block funding through pupil-led factors? Has reducing the number of factors local authorities can use in determining their funding formulae for schools improved fairness and transparency? To what extent will the Minimum Funding Guarantee for all schools in 2013/14 and 2014/15 limit disruption for schools as funding reforms are implemented? What has been the impact of Government's introduction of a single rate of per-pupil entitlement for Key Stages 1 and 2? Should Government restrict the ratio of per-pupil funding between primary and secondary stages, to avoid regional disparities in funding? What will be the impact of setting different per-pupil rates of the Education Services Grant for academies and local authorities? Has allowing local authorities to provide a lump sum of up to £200,000 to smaller schools alongside per-pupil funding ensured those schools' sustainability; how will reducing this to a maximum of £175,000 from 2014/15 affect these schools? Will giving the Education Funding Agency observer status at schools forums uphold fairness in local decision-making? How will limiting additional funding for EAL pupils and 'mobile pupils' to those joining the education system in the last 3 years affect these pupils' integration and attainment?*

**Sam Ellis**, Funding Specialist, ASCL

**Nilesh Jethwa**, Head, Schools Finance, London Borough of Lambeth

**Anwen Foy**, Team Leader, Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS), Hampshire County Council

**Dr Barbara Taylor**, General Secretary, National Association for Small Schools

Questions and comments from the floor with **Luke Sibieta**, Programme Director, Education Sector, Institute of Fiscal Studies

12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**

**Robin Walker MP**, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Education Governance and Leadership

**Jonny Roberts**, Associate Editor, Westminster Education Forum



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