

Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: The future of school inspection in England

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 10th February 2015

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, formerly Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools in England
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Reforms to England's school inspection framework**
Andrew Cook HMI, Regional Director, East of England, Ofsted
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 9.50 **School inspections in England: a context**
Tim Phillips, Director, Education, National Audit Office
- 9.50 - 10.50 **Implementing the new inspection framework**
With Ofsted proposing to harmonise the inspection regime, how can schools and other providers be supported in dealing with the likely impact of being inspected under a very broad inspection framework? In what ways can non-associated independent schools be supported to prepare for the new more challenging inspection framework to be introduced from September 2015? What initial lessons can be drawn from the introduction of no-notice inspections for schools where standards are giving cause for concern? Will the move to no-notice inspections for all schools provide inspectors with an accurate picture of school standards; how can concerns from the teaching profession such as their potential to stifle creativity and create 'a culture of fear and intimidation' be addressed? In what situations has the Regional Directors system introduced in 2013 been successful in improving education standards in regions, and what lessons can be learnt? Will Ofsted's decision to end the outsourcing of additional inspectors address concerns raised by schools and teaching unions about the quality of inspectors, and lack of consistency and comparability in inspection reports; do further steps need to be taken? What can be learnt from the findings of pilot inspections where a teacher is not graded on performance in individual lessons? How can schools be supported when preparing for these new-style inspections aimed at encouraging innovative teaching practices in the classroom? Should Ofsted consider providing a separate grading for the school curriculum to ensure schools provide broad and balanced learning, as suggested by the NAHT? What would be the impact of Ofsted's plans to introduce a new light-touch inspection regime for 'Good' and 'Outstanding' schools to be inspected every three years by one HMI - how could the risk of falling standards be mitigated?
Jonathan Simons, Head of Education, Policy Exchange
Gary Phillips, Headteacher, Lilian Baylis Technology School, London
Dr Maddalena Taras, Faculty of Education and Society, University of Sunderland
Mark Hudson, Headmaster, Kew House School, London
Questions and comments from the floor with **Tim Phillips**, Director, Education, National Audit Office
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Sutherland of Houndwood, formerly Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools in England
- 10.55 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Storey, Co-Chair, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Party Committee on Education, Families and Young People
- 11.30 - 11.55 **Impact of school inspection on the improvement of networks schools - an international comparison**
Dr Melanie Ehren, Senior Lecturer, London Centre for Leadership in Learning, Institute of Education, University of London
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 - 12.55 **The future for school inspections in England**
Amidst concerns raised about accountability structures, particularly relating to sponsors of academies and free schools, what role should Ofsted play in the inspection of non-maintained state schools? In light of the recent decision for Ofsted to inspect academy chains should Ofsted also be asked to provide an overall judgement following the inspections, and for its remit be further expanded to include responsibility for inspecting all independent schools? Should Ofsted's remit be further expanded to include responsibility for inspecting all independent schools? What lessons can be drawn from other school inspection systems internationally and from other public sector accountability systems in England? How effective will be Ofsted's recent decision to downgrade schools that fail to narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers in helping raise attainment of disadvantaged pupils; in what ways can the school inspection framework be further used to tackle educational underachievement of disadvantaged pupils? In an increasingly diverse education landscape, what role should local authorities and other bodies play in improving schools being judged as 'inadequate'?
Simon Beamish, Chief Executive, Leigh Academies Trust
Liz Rayment-Pickard, Head, School Standards and Improvement, School Standards and Improvement Service, Wandsworth Borough Council
Loic Menzies, Director, LKMco
Suzanne O'Farrell, Inspections Specialist, ASCL
Peter Hamilton, Headmaster, The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, Hertfordshire
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Lord Storey, Co-Chair, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Party Committee on Education, Families and Young People
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Westminster Education Forum