

**Westminster Education Forum policy conference:  
Next steps for raising attainment in England's schools**

*Timing: Morning, Thursday, 23<sup>th</sup> October 2025*

**\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\***

*Draft agenda subject to change*



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **Practical steps for improving pupil outcomes in England**  
Senior representative, RISE advisor  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Raising attainment in early years settings and primary schools**  
*assessing key measures in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill / improving teacher standards, pay and qualifications / achieving consistency across varied school settings / improving outcomes within early years settings / strategies to improve transitions, early development and readiness for learning / priorities for enhancing parental engagement / assessing the Government's Best Start in Life strategy and practical steps for implementation / potential impact and delivery of Best Start Family Hubs*  
**Professor Mark Mon-Williams**, Chair, Cognitive Psychology, School of Psychology, University of Leeds  
Senior representative, early years  
Senior representative, primary school  
Senior representative, teaching union  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.10 **Improving access to SEND support and raising attainment for learners with additional needs**  
*addressing concerns around variations in SEND support and access / aligning funding, workforce capacity and access to specialist support / the future of EHCP processes and delivery / implementing wider inclusion strategies / addressing gaps in workforce capacity, training and funding for SEND support*  
Senior representative, SEND  
Senior representative, school  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.00 **Improving pupil access to pastoral support, developing effective multi-agency collaboration and priorities for supporting disadvantaged learners**  
*enhancing workforce development / best practice in use of pupil premium funding / addressing disparities in support / improving school capacity to respond effectively to complex pupil needs / improving data-informed approaches to equity / expansion of early intervention pathways / integration of mental health and pastoral care / enhancing capacity in MATs and local partnerships / CPD, retention strategies and leadership development / driving improvement through partnerships between schools, MATs and local services*  
Senior representative, teaching union  
Senior representative, school  
Senior representative, CPD  
Senior commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 **Priorities for digital tools and innovation in supporting attainment moving forward**  
Senior representative, EdTech
- 12.00 **Enhancing secondary education attainment, student progression and improving outcomes**  
*progression to FE, HE and employment / improving social mobility / potential impact of the Curriculum and Assessment Review / improving GCSE outcomes and support for English and maths resits / tackling disadvantage and supporting social mobility through targeted provision / alternative assessment options moving forward / strategies to embed careers guidance across the curriculum*  
Senior representative, employer  
Senior representative, school  
Senior representative, FE  
Senior representative, HE  
Senior representative, exam board
- 12.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Policy priorities and next steps for raising attainment in England's schools**  
**Catherine McKinnell MP**, Minister of State for School Standards, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentary  
**Sean Cudmore**, Westminster Education Forum