

**Westminster Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for literacy and numeracy in England's schools**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 1st December 2025

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

Draft agenda subject to change



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Watson of Invergowrie
- 9.05 **Key findings from the Curriculum and Assessment Review**
Jon Hutchinson, Director, Teacher Development and Curriculum, Reach Foundation; and Member, Curriculum and Assessment Review Group
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Developing foundation literacy and numeracy, and improving transitions to primary school**
identifying children at risk of falling behind / early intervention and support strategies / building capacity and confidence in the early years workforce / improving transitions to primary school / new approaches to speech and language development / supporting child development at home / coordinating approaches across early years and primary schools / assessing the impact of the Early Language Support for Every Child programme / utilisation of Stronger Practice Hubs / potential impact of the Maths Champions programme / support for maintained nursery schools in leading local improvement / funding adequacy and consistent pedagogy across early years providers
Professor Michelle Neumann, Professor, Education, University of Sheffield
Dr Timothy Mills MBE, former Executive Director, Primary Education, STEP Academy Trust; and RISE Advisor, Department for Education
Lydia Davison, Assistant Headteacher, Raising Standards, Kensington Avenue Primary School, Thornton Heath
Senior representative, early years provider
Senior representative, parent group
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Literacy and numeracy curriculum, assessment and workforce priorities at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2**
findings of the Curriculum and Assessment Review / assessment options moving forward / balancing phonics, comprehension and reading for pleasure / examining grammar, punctuation, and spelling tests at KS2 / embedding oracy across the curriculum / supporting parental involvement in literacy and numeracy development / latest thinking on effective teaching methods / professional development / supporting transitions to KS3 / strategies to support learners with additional needs / addressing regional disparities in access and provision / ensuring consistency and quality of training delivered across Hubs
Matthew Courtney, English Hub Lead, Wandle English Hub, Chesterton Primary School, London
Senior representative, primary school
Senior representative, Maths Hub
Senior representative, awarding body
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Watson of Invergowrie
- 11.10 Break
- 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.25 **Exploring literacy and numeracy teaching in England - attainment, challenges, and priorities moving forward**
Jonathan Douglas, Chief Executive, National Literacy Trust
Charlie Stripp, Chief Executive, Mathematics and Education in Industry; and, Director, National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Assessment and learning in secondary education**
embedding literacy and numeracy across the Key Stage 3 curriculum / reflections on the Curriculum and Assessment Review findings / ensuring clarity and progression across key stages / facilitating progression to GCSE and improving attainment for sitting GCSE re-sits / utilising digital tools and AI to enhance feedback and development / strategies to adapt teaching assessment for learners with SEND / increasing access to professional development
Dr Gráinne Watson, Chief Operating Officer, RM Education
Damian Haigh, Headteacher, University of Liverpool Maths School
Senior representative, school
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **Policy priorities for literacy and numeracy moving forward**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Education Forum