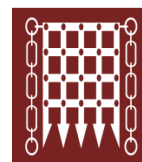


**Westminster Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for raising attainment in England's schools**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 23th October 2025

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

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER
EDUCATION
FORUM**

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **The current landscape for school standards in England**
Senior commentator
- 9.15 **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
- 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 **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
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.50 **Practical steps for improving pupil outcomes in England**
Senior representative, regional improvement
- 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
James Cheater, Director, External Projects, White Rose Education
Senior representative, teaching union
Senior representative, school
Senior commentator
- 11.20 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
Laura Bartoletti, Assistant Headteacher, Pastoral Care, Putteridge High School, Luton
Senior representative, employer
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