Venue: Westminster

Agenda

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 Chairman's opening remarks
Diana Johnson MP, Shadow Home Office Minister

9.05 - 9.35 Curriculum reform and English
Jane Hough, Team Leader for English and Foreign Languages, National Curriculum Review Division, Department for Education

Questions and comments from the floor

9.35 - 10.05 The proposed Programme of Study - a response from the sector
Dr Simon Gibbons, Chair, National Association for the Teaching of English

Questions and comments from the floor

10.05 - 10.55 Examining the content of the new Programme of Study for English
Does the Programme of Study (PoS) strike the right balance between the teaching of literature and functional literacy, and language skills at each Key Stage? Are speaking and listening skills suitably addressed by the PoS? To what extent does the new PoS support pupils to develop wider skills such as critical thinking, creativity and analysis? What will be the impact on their progression of allowing pupils to continue to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum in Year 1 if they have not met the early learning goals for literacy? Is the increased focus on phonics, contained in the PoS, likely to lead to an improvement in basic literacy levels, and is the new PoS flexible enough to also stretch more able pupils? Will the new primary PoS adequately prepare pupils for the new Year 6 SATs? Does the Key Stage 3 PoS match up with the PoS for primary schools, to aid transitions? Should the PoS explicitly state certain authors or genres to be taught? Should the range of texts pupils should be expected to study include film and multi-modal texts? What role should Drama play in the English curriculum?

Edward Caines, Headteacher, Woodside Primary School, Essex
Sarah Hubbard, Deputy Headteacher, Selly Park Technology College, Birmingham and Specialist Leader of Education for English, Oaks Collegiate
Professor Helen Fulton, Professor of Medieval Literature and Head of Department, English and Related Literature, University of York
Professor Simon Shepherd, Deputy Principal (Academic) and Professor of Theatre, The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
Mike Grishaber, President, Slough Chamber of Commerce

Questions and comments from the floor

10.55 - 11.00 Chairman's closing remarks
Diana Johnson MP, Shadow Home Office Minister

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee

11.30 - 11.35 Chairman's opening remarks
Patricia Metham HMI, National Adviser for English, Ofsted

11.35 - 12.25 Implementing the new Programme of Study - challenges and opportunities
Will CPD opportunities or advice be required to support teachers with the new freedoms to teach from a wider range of texts? Will the inclusion of marks for grammar, spelling and punctuation in GCSEs be likely to lead to an increased focus on teaching English language skills in secondary schools? What are the likely teaching time requirements for delivering the new English PoS at primary and secondary levels? Are reductions in funding for local libraries affecting reading rates amongst young people? What role can school trips play in helping to deliver the English curriculum? What has been the impact of the new, more targeted Book Trust schemes announced in April 2011? How can children, particularly boys, be encouraged to read for pleasure from an early age; what steps can schools and other organisations take to help parents engage with their children's literacy? Would the possible extension of compulsory English until age 18 require adaptation of the new curriculum?

Judy Ellerby, Principal Officer Primary/Early Years Education, NUT
Adrian Barlow, Chairman, English Association
Georgie Ellinas, Head of Learning (Interim), Globe Education, Shakespeare's Globe
Viv Bird, Chief Executive, Booktrust

Questions and comments from the floor

12.25 - 12.55 English teaching in England's schools
Patricia Metham HMI, National Adviser for English, Ofsted

Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00 Chairman's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks
Patricia Metham HMI, National Adviser for English, Ofsted

Jonny Roberts, Senior Producer, Westminster Education Forum