

## **APPG for Schools Learning and Assessment – Inaugural Meeting**

**Date – 19 July 2022**

**Time – 2pm**

**Attendees –**

- Flick Drummond MP
- Emma Hardy MP
- Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
- Lord Watson of Invergowrie
- John Lamont MP
- Nicola Richards MP
- Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi MP

### **1. Apologies**

We have received apologies from Baroness Morris of Yardley, Caroline Lucas MP, Fleur Anderson MP and Lord Storey.

### **2. Name and Purpose**

It was agreed that the group will be named the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Schools, Learning and Assessment.

It was agreed the purpose of the Group is to promote and support school level education and the quality of learning and assessment for all pupils.

### **3. Election of officers**

Flick Drummond was elected as chair of the group. Emma Hardy was elected as co-chair. The following were all elected as vice-chairs –

- Lord Hunt of Kings Heath
- Baroness Morris of Yardley
- Kim Johnson MP
- Lord Knight of Weymouth
- Lord Watson of Invergowrie

### **4. Election of Secretariat**

It was agreed that the National Education Union (NEU) would be the secretariat for the Group. The NEU will work closely with other organisations to ensure that the Group is collaborative and effective in its outputs.

## 5. Income and expenditure

The proposed budget of £28,500 for the year was agreed, with these monies to be spent as follows –

Item	Cost
Printing	£2000
Postage	£500
Social Media Provision	£3000
Research fees	£15000
Business expenses	£1000
Room Hire	£2000
Catering	£5000

## 6. Future programme of work

The following programme of work was agreed for the APPG

### Event with Assessment Commission Chairs – 13 September

As the first public meeting the Group will hold a parliamentary reception with all of the commission chairs that are currently looking at assessment. So far representatives from the Times Commission, Rethinking Assessment, HMC and the Independent Assessment Commission have all agreed to speak. It was also agreed that we will invite all members of the Education Select Committee and invite Robert Halfon to speak. Flick will be inviting James Cleverly and the group will also invite Bridget Phillipson. We will also invite awarding bodies to attend.

As an outcome of this meeting the group will launch a mini-inquiry to hear further evidence on different elements of secondary assessment.

The Jubilee Room has been booked from 12.30-2pm on 13 September.

### Schools Bill meeting

The group decided to postpone this meeting until the conclusion of the government’s review into multi-academy trusts that is currently open.

### Secondary Assessment first evidence session (Effects of current system)

The focus for this first evidence session will be on how current assessments impact upon and are impacted by wider elements of the school system. The purpose will be for parliamentarians on the APPG to hear from experts about the effects assessment, particularly exam-only assessment, has on the curriculum, student/teacher wellbeing or any other aspects of the education system.

We will have three experts give evidence of roughly five minutes each to the APPG on how the people they work with/represent view the current system (this could be someone representing any three of parents, students, teachers, academics, policy makers etc.). From this we will open it up into a general discussion on curriculum in secondary schools and how this intersects with the assessments that are taught for.

It was agreed that we will look to hold this evidence session in early November

Secondary Assessment second evidence session (What knowledge, skills and competencies will be most important for life and work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and how best can they be assessed / Are exams really the fairest method of assessment?)

The second evidence session will follow a very similar format with experts presenting evidence on the types of skills and competencies which will be necessary for work and life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and how best to assess those things.

A superb guest in this regard, if it were at all possible, would be Andreas Schleicher. Alternatively a representative from the Australian Government. It was agreed that this evidence session will focus more on the international perspective. It was also agreed that we could look to split this into two evidence sessions at different times, especially to allow international guests to participate.

It was agreed that this will take place in January.

Primary Assessment meetings

The group will then move on to look at similar issues regarding primary assessment with further evidence sessions to take account of these. These meetings are likely to be in March and May.

The group will produce a report with all of the evidence that has been heard to present to the Secretary of State.