

APPG for Schools Learning and Assessment – AGM report

Date – 14th November 2023

Time – 5pm

Attendees –

- Flick Drummond MP
- Lord Watson of Invergowrie
- Lord Aberdare
- Jamie Stone MP
- Lisa Cameron MP

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Emma Hardy MP, Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, Lord Knight of Weymouth, Henry Smith MP, Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle, Sir Stephen Timms MP, Ian Byrne MP, Lord Blunkett, Lord Baker of Dorking, Kate Osborne MP, Keir Mather MP, Steve Tuckwell MP, Baroness Garden of Frognal and Lord Hampton.

Election of officers

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

- Lord Watson of Invergowrie
- Lord Hunt of Kings Heath

Election of Secretariat

It was agreed that the National Education Union (NEU) would continue to provide the secretariat for the Group.

Income and expenditure

The income and expenditure statement for the Group’s reporting year (Appendix A) was agreed. The breakdown of costs for this year can be seen below.

Item	Cost
Catering	£1,849.59
Website	£2,000
Materials	£312
Research fees	£7,750
Travel expenses	£180.88
Room Hire	£390
Photography	£300

For the coming year we agreed this budget for the Group

Item	Cost
Printing	£2,000
Postage	£500
Social Media Provision	£3,000
Research fees	£10,000
Business expenses	£1,000
Room Hire	£7,000

Work of the group this year

The Group has focused on our inquiry into assessment reform, with various meetings and roundtables looking at different aspects of assessment. This has culminated in the publication of the report '[Towards a fairer, more useful and fit for purpose way to assess children and young people in the 21st Century.](#)'

We initially launched the inquiry with a reception in Parliament in November 2022, and invited written evidence from interested parties. Seventeen submissions of written evidence were made to the APPG. In addition, a series of five meetings, during which oral presentations were heard, was held between January and June 2023.

Each of the five APPG meetings was addressed by a panel of speakers with expertise in educational assessment systems or first-hand experience of assessment at primary or secondary level. As well as national and internationally renowned academics, contributions were made by school heads, post-16 school and college students, an apprentice, representatives of both national and local parent-led campaign groups, a university admissions and outreach officer, and a successful businessman with experiencing of working with schools and young people on work experience.

Topics of the meetings focused on –

- I. the impact of assessment;
- II. the types of knowledge, skills and competencies considered to be the most important for life and work in the 21st century;
- III. international perspectives on assessment reform;
- IV. the role of statutory assessment in primary education and a final meeting which considered
- V. whether it is possible to maintain high standards without high stakes assessment in primary education.

The Group will continue to publicise the report and work with stakeholders to take the recommendations forwards.

Future programme of work

It was agreed that for the coming year, rather than have a single topic focus for the APPG, we would have four meetings on a variety of topics related to schools, learning and assessment. These topics

would be both those that are politically significant at the time, or that follow on from the work of the inquiry.

It was agreed that the next meeting would focus on teacher training. Recent reforms to Initial Teacher Training had highlighted some of the problems within the system on teacher training. Government have also indicated a desire to create additional pathways into teaching to help to address the recruitment and retention problem in the profession.

A meeting on this topic could assess some of the solutions to improve teacher training and ensure that there is a highly-qualified workforce in schools. Possible speakers at the meeting included Teach Now, an ITT provider and a school-centred initial teacher training (SCITT) provider.

Topics for potential future meetings of the Group included Ofsted, the Oak National Academy, content and aims of the curriculum, absent children, workload, education funding and SEND.

Appendix A – Income and Expenditure Statement for APPG for Schools, Learning and Assessment

Name of group: APPG for Schools, Learning and Assessment

Period covered by this statement: 19 July 2022 to 18 July 2023

£

A. Balance brought forward from previous year:	£0
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B. Income received during the year:	
i. Membership subscriptions (parliamentarians)	£0
ii. Monetary donations (including external subscriptions and sponsorship)	£12,782.47

iii. Trading income	£0
iv. Interest received	£0
v. Other (please explain)	£0
TOTAL income	12,782.47

C. Expenditure during the year:

i. Employment costs (salaries, NI, pensions costs)	£0
ii. Costs of contractors and freelance staff	£7,750
iii. Visits and events (UK)	£ 2,720.47
iv. Visits and events (abroad)	£0
v. Cost of generating income	£0

vi. Office and communications costs	£2,312
vii. Other (please explain)	
TOTAL expenditure	£12,782.47

D. Balance carried forward (A+ total B-total C)	0
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<p>E. Value of benefits in kind received from each source during the reporting year (in bands of up to £1,500; £1,501-£3,000; £3,001 to £4,500; £4,501 to £6,000 etc)</p> <p>Please itemise according to the source and band</p>	<p>£0</p>
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Flick Drummond

Signed by Chair of Group:

Date: 14/11/2023.

