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Education in Scotland 2010

Creating a fairer, smarter Scotland

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Holyrood
magazine

**Tuesday 23 February
2010**

*Radisson Blu Hotel,
Edinburgh*

Keynote speakers:

Michael Russell MSP

*Cabinet Secretary for Education
and Lifelong Learning, The Scottish
Government*

Pasi Sahlberg

*Director General, Centre for
International Mobility and
Cooperation (CIMO), Finland*

Graham Donaldson

*Senior Chief Inspector, Her Majesty's
Inspectorate of Education (HMIE)*

Professor Walter Humes

*Research Professor of Education,
University of the West of Scotland*

Bernard McLeary

*Chief Executive, Learning and
Teaching Scotland*

Conference Chair:

Keith Aitken

Writer, Broadcaster and Journalist

Sponsored by:



Education in Scotland 2010

Creating a fairer, smarter Scotland



Welcome

Scottish education lies on the cusp of change. Billed as the most radical reform for a generation, Curriculum for Excellence is set to arrive in schools this year with a new qualifications system to follow in 2013.

But with this period of opportunity come some steep challenges. The changes are coming into force against an unprecedented squeeze on public finances. As council budgets tighten, implementing a new curriculum while delivering on ambitious national policies will be a testing task.

Amidst these developments the quality of Scottish education has come squarely under the spotlight. Scotland has traditionally boasted a high status on the world education stage but recent statistics have served as a vital reminder that there is no room for complacency. The 2007 Trends in International Maths and Science Survey showed Scotland standing still while other nations powered ahead. Meanwhile the recent Literacy Commission's found that as many as 13,000 children in Scotland leave primary school each year without basic literacy skills. Such figures have only reaffirmed the need to ensure an equal education system that leaves no child behind.

These combined forces of change, financial squeeze and a drive to raise standards, are stirring up a fundamental debate about Scottish education. As the sector strives to meet increasing expectations in a period of diminishing resources, some innovative ideas are being raised. At the forefront of that debate, the new Education Secretary has committed to undertake a root and branch review of the education system with no option off the table.

As we face into 2010 Scottish education lies at a critical juncture. A new curriculum presents a once in a generation opportunity to revolutionise learning and teaching and realise the potential of every child in Scotland. That opportunity must not be derailed by challenging economic conditions.

This conference will examine the key issues that will dominate the Scottish education agenda in the next five to 10 years. It will hear from the new Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning Mike Russell on his vision for the future of Scottish education as well as key figures in the Scottish education system about where we are, where we're going and what needs to be done to get there.

Cera Murtagh

Education Correspondent, Holyrood magazine

Session One: Scotland's Education System

It has now been 10 years since the power to make decisions about Scottish education was handed to Scotland and it's administration. With a new Cabinet Secretary in place, a Curriculum for Excellence to be implemented by Autumn 2010, and continuing debate over teacher quality and delivery, now is the time to evaluate the current system and make a realistic plan for development. Where are we now, and where are we going?

- 09:00 Registration and refreshments
- 09:45 Welcome and introduction by the Chair
Keith Aitken
Writer, Broadcaster and Journalist

HIGHLIGHT

- 09:50  The changing face of Scottish Education
Graham Donaldson
Senior Chief Inspector, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE)

- 10:10 On the front line
Speaker tbc
See www.holyrood.com/education for updates
- 10:30 Improving Scotland's literacy and numeracy
Representative of SQA
- 10:50 Questions and discussion

KEYNOTE

- 11:10  Keynote address from
Michael Russell MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, The Scottish Government

Followed by questions to the Cabinet Secretary

- 11:35 **Refreshments**

Session Two: Improving and developing: examining models of delivery

Much emphasis has been placed on meeting the fairer and smarter Scotland agendas, forcing an examination of how education is delivered across Scotland. Inconsistencies in service quality and delivery are constantly debated on local and national agendas, whilst discussions about class sizes, funding and school closures add to the debate. Is the current model, services delivered individually through the 32 local authorities, the best model in terms of quality and efficiency?

11:55 Effective models of delivery

John Stodter
Education Consultant

12:10 Partnership working: a new breed of Scottish schools?

Speaker tbc
See www.holyrood.com/education for updates

INTERACTIVE DEBATE

12:20 Panel Debate:

The future of Scottish education

- *What alternatives are there to the current method of delivery in Scotland?*
- *Do we need to consider a central education body in Scotland?*

Panellists include:

Geoff Mawdsley
Director, Reform Scotland

John Stodter
Education Consultant

Other panellists to be confirmed

See www.holyrood.com/education for updates

13:10 **Lunch**

Session Three: Encouraging innovation and leadership in Scotland's schools

In the final session, speakers will lead discussions on the next steps for those involved with education in Scotland including: the importance and influence of new technology on the successful delivery of education policies and the need to encourage innovation and leadership, as well as staff retention, in Scotland's school sector. To close, delegates will hear from Pasi Sahlberg, Finland's leading school improvement activist and Director General of CIMO – the body responsible for implementing all EU education programmes at national level. What can Scotland learn from successful programmes abroad?

14:10 Improving development and learning through technology

Bernard McLeary
Chief Executive, Learning and Teaching Scotland

14:25 Recruitment, retention and the need for more leadership

Ken Cunningham
General Secretary, School Leaders Scotland

HIGHLIGHT

14:40



Future scenarios for schooling in Scotland
Walter Humes
*Research Professor for Education,
University of the West of Scotland*

14:55 Questions and discussion

KEYNOTE

15:15



Learning lessons from abroad
Pasi Sahlberg
*Director General, Centre for International
Mobility and Cooperation*
Followed by questions and discussion

15:50 Summary and closing comments
Keith Aitken, Broadcaster and Journalist, will bring the conference to a close by summarising the day's proceedings

16:00 **Close of conference**



Michael Russell MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, The Scottish Government

Michael Russell was appointed Education Secretary for the Scottish Government in December 2009 where he has brought a fresh approach to some of Scotland's key educational policies. Prior to his role in Cabinet, he has held posts as Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution (2009) and Minister for Environment (2007-2009).



Graham Donaldson

Senior Chief Inspector, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe)

Graham was appointed HM Senior Chief Inspector of Education in 2002. In this role, he is Chief Executive of HM Inspectorate of Education and Chief Professional Adviser to the Scottish Government on all aspects of education outside the university sector. Recently announcing his retirement from HMIe, he will be leading the Scottish Government review of Teacher Education, reporting at the end of 2010.



Walter Humes

Research Professor for Education, University of the West of Scotland

Walter previously held Professorships at the universities of Strathclyde and Aberdeen. His publications include work on teacher education, educational leadership and management, history of education and policy studies. Along with Professor Tom Bryce of Strathclyde University, he is co-editor of *Scottish Education*, a 1000-page text on all sectors of the Scottish educational system. He writes a regular polemical column for *The Times Educational Supplement Scotland* and is also a frequent contributor to the online journal *Scottish Review*.



Bernard McLeary

Chief Executive Learning and Teaching Scotland

Bernard McLeary has been Chief Executive of LTS since 2004. Prior to this, Bernard has held roles as an education advisor, as well as Directorate posts in Dumfries, Argyll and Bute and Glasgow. Appointed Director of Education for Inverclyde in 1995, under his leadership the council developed a national reputation for education innovation, continuous improvement and significantly raising pupil achievement. As part of its programme of work, LTS is involved with the development and promotion of innovative technologies which will enhance and improve the education system in Scotland.

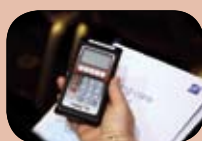


Pasi Sahlberg

Director General, Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation, Finland

Pasi Sahlberg is Director General of CIMO (Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation) in Helsinki, Finland. He has global expertise in educational reforms, training teachers and leaders, coaching schools to change and advising education policy-makers. He delivers speeches and writes about educational change, development and cooperation. Delivering the closing keynote address, he will discuss the success of Finnish education and what Scotland can learn.

Electronic polling



Holyrood has been at the forefront of interactive events for the last six years, maximising engagement between presenters and the audience. The results of the interactive sessions will be submitted in the

conference report to relevant departments within the Parliament and Scottish Government and will be available online to conference participants after the event.

As a definitive research tool electronic polling helps:

- ✓ encourage discussion and debate
- ✓ engage delegates who might not contribute
- ✓ identify differences of opinions within specified groups
- ✓ gather information and opinions
- ✓ audiences retain difficult information
- ✓ hold the audiences attention
- ✓ generate instant feedback
- ✓ identify key issues quickly

Conference fees and booking

Full rate: £249 + VAT

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