

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP FOR DISADVANTAGED PUPILS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE Tuesday 3 July 2018 (9.30am-3.30pm)

Jeffery Hall, UCL Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL

1. CONFERENCE AIMS

The aim of this conference is to look at the barriers to learning and school strategies to close the achievement gap of disadvantaged pupils in schools. Specific objectives are:

- To explore the national and regional picture of the impact of poverty on attainment
- To identify the factors for underachievement of disadvantaged pupils
- To examine how disadvantaged pupils are supported in achieving high standards of attainment
- To share good practice and strategies to close the achievement gap

Closing the gap between the achievement of disadvantaged pupils who are entitled to free school meals and their peers is one of the biggest challenges faced by policy makers, teachers and school leaders in England. There is now a well-established body of research evidence that shows the gap is still wide and has not narrowed much over the period. Of a particular concern is that inequality in education outcomes has grown for some disadvantaged groups such as Black Caribbean, White Working class, and Pakistani pupils on free school meals. Recent research also reveals how the pupil premium has started to close the gap through targeted support and interventions in schools. The conference is a unique opportunity to share the findings of the research reports and to learn what has proven to work from the experiences of classroom practitioners and successful schools. Specialist sessions will also explore the conference themes and case studies from successful schools.

2. SPEAKERS

The conference is chaired by Cathy Twist, Director of Education, Lambeth LA

- **Addressing the North and South achievement gap**
Professor Stephen Gorard, University of Durham
- **Tackling disadvantage using pupil premium: Lessons from schools, regions & DfE opportunity areas**
Gaynor Roberts Senior HMI, Ofsted

HEADTEACHERS PANEL 1: What works in closing the achievement gap of disadvantaged pupils?

This session considers creative approaches that schools have undertaken to raise achievement.

- David Boyle, Principal, Dunraven School, Lambeth LA (Chair)
- Edison David, Headteacher, Granton Primary School, Lambeth LA
- Serge Cefai, Headteacher, Sacred Heart Secondary School, Southwark LA
- Jeremy Rowe, Headteacher, Sir John Leman High School, Suffolk LA

RESEARCHERS SESSION 2: What does research tell us about closing the achievement gap?

This session considers good practice research evidence in closing the gap

- Feyisa Demie, Head of Research and Adviser for School Self-Evaluation
- Christabel Mclean, Former Headteacher and Education Consultant

PRACTITIONERS SESSION 3: Tackling disadvantage: Case studies of successful schools

This specialist session considers what successful schools do to create such a notable success with disadvantaged pupils to close the gap.

- **Effective practice in tackling disadvantage in secondary schools**
Wendy Tomes (CEO) and Claire Turpin (Headteacher), Sidney Stringer Academy, Coventry LA
- **Effective practice in using pupil premium in primary schools to close the gap**
Marc Rowland, Head of Rosendale Research School

3. WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers, Assistant Headteachers, Teachers, SENCos, Governors
- Heads of School Improvement, School Improvement Advisers, Local Authority Officers
- National Policymakers