

MICK WATERS

Mick Waters works with the schools in the West Midlands in raising standards. This work began as part of the Black Country Challenge and has continued through the University of Wolverhampton's involvement with the development of Academies and Teaching Schools. He also works with schools in several other parts of the country on innovative approaches to learning and other initiatives to push the boundaries for making learning better.

Mick supports several educational causes. He is a patron of Values Based Education, which encourages schools to consider values in all they do, and of SAPERE which promotes Philosophy for Children as a route to learning. Mick is also a patron of the Curriculum Foundation, which seeks to promote a voice for the power and potential of the whole curriculum. Mick supports the National Association for Environmental Education as a vice president and is also chair of CoEd which promotes compassionate education.

During his career, Mick has been a teacher and head teacher before working at senior levels in Birmingham and Manchester Local Authorities. He worked at a national level with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority where he was Director of Curriculum. Over several years he has been asked to work in countries across the globe either with national governments or directly with schools to develop revised policy and practice.

Recent involvement has seen Mick working at national policy level with the Welsh Government offering advice and support to the education reform agenda. Mick chaired an Independent Review of School Teachers' Pay and Conditions for the Welsh Government with some exciting new proposals for teachers' careers and professional learning. This followed on from work he did in helping to produce new Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership...and more recently, Assisting Teaching. Currently he is chairing a panel to produce recommendations about the way the system needs to amend habits, routines and traditions to enable more family friendly approaches for the modern age: 'Schooling re-imagined'.

Mick believes that learning should be treasured and valued and that it needs to be shaped to fit with children's lives as well as structured to help society meet the promise of the future. People in schools need to set understandings of their children alongside the learning they should meet to create learning that is irresistible and sets them well for their futures.

Mick believes in being close to teachers, children and schools, and is often to be found in the classroom working with children. He has written and contributed to many books on the curriculum, teaching and learning, and leadership, as well as making presentations at numerous national and international conferences. He is passionate about the role of education in improving life chances for pupils. He enjoys asking adults to look at learning through the eyes of a pupil.