

# National Education Trust: Associates

The National Education Trust Associates are a high quality team who have a strong and well referenced track record of working on improvement and development with schools, colleges and early years settings across the country, and internationally.



The Associates are led by Roy Blatchford, who has worked in nearly every sector of education from the classroom to Whitehall. During the past forty years he has been a teacher, headteacher, school governor, director of various educational charities, lead Ofsted inspector, national trainer and keynote speaker. Roy was Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools in England, with lead responsibility for school improvement and for the national inspection of good and outstanding schools. He has helped establish inspection and school review systems in New York, the UAE and Mumbai. Roy is a Visiting Fellow at Oxford Brookes University.

He has advised successive governments, most recently as Deputy Chair of the Teacher's Standards Review. Roy is also the author/editor of over 150 books for pupils, teachers and parents including *Managing the Secondary School*, *The Effective Teacher* and *Sparkling Classrooms*.

## The Associates



■ **Tony Ashmore** followed a PhD in Chemical Education by teaching at school and university level, becoming Registrar and Director of Education and Qualifications of a major professional body.

Tony leads NET's policy and research work, and is also a consultant on professional regulation, governance and organisational development in the not-for-profit sector nationally.



■ **Kate Atkins** has been teaching in Lambeth for nearly 20 years. She is an Early Years expert and has worked at Rosendale Primary School, a three-form entry school with a children's centre, for nine years, the last two years as Head of School.

The school is bursting with innovation – housing its library in a double-decker London bus, broadcasting a weekly radio show and developing a system of learning that sees children working independently, assessing their own learning and publishing to a world-wide audience.



■ **Cynthia Bartlett** has taught in secondary schools for over 30 years. She is a senior examiner at GCSE in Religious Studies and is also involved in external examining for PGCE and for a Masters course in Education. She was a secondary headteacher for 13 years and is currently a governor of a community primary school and an independent school.

She has delivered a wide range of In-Service Training to teachers and examiners during the last twenty years.



■ **David Birch** taught English in schools in London and Oxfordshire before becoming a secondary headteacher in Devon for 12 years. He has been a School Improvement Partner with nine schools in the South West and continues to work with schools in three local authorities as a school improvement adviser. He works on school evaluation and improvement projects nationally.

Much of David's recent activity has focused on leadership and management coaching in primary and secondary schools; improving teaching and learning and leadership in sixth forms; and developing the teaching of English and literacy 3 –19. He writes and leads training courses nationally, and is an A level English examiner and subject consultant for Ofqual.

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■ **Neil Blundell** began his teaching career (Music) in Edmonton North London and Essex. After completing an MA in education he began working as an advisory teacher in Essex working in a range of challenging schools. After becoming Assistant Head of Bitterne Park School in Southampton he moved to Salisbury as a Deputy Headteacher, working towards outstanding inspection outcomes in both schools.

Neil became Principal of Bristol Cathedral Choir School (11 – 18) in 2008. Since his appointment he has led the school from the independent sector, becoming an academy and overseeing a large building and change management programme. In 2011 Neil led a bid to open a Free School primary (CPS) which is due to open in September 2013. Neil is a contributor to NCSL courses, writing articles and facilitating on the NPQH course.

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■ **Tony Byrne** is an independent consultant, with a background in schools and local authorities. He is Ofsted qualified to inspect primary and secondary schools, including sixth forms, and has led many inspections. In addition to inspection work he has held interim senior posts in a number of local authorities, leading both primary and secondary inspection teams. He has substantial experience of consultancy in improving teaching and learning, including through the London Challenge programme. His subject specialisms are English, drama and media studies up to A level. He has contributed to subject surveys for Ofsted.

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■ **Maxine Clewlow** is currently a headteacher of a large primary school in Milton Keynes, and enjoys the challenge of moving schools forward so that they can improve outcomes for their pupils. Maxine has experience of moving a school out of special measures, and knows well how to promote clear strategic systems for developing effective teams and leadership structures.

Maxine is an accredited additional inspector for Ofsted. In 2009 - 2010 Maxine had the privilege of being seconded to work alongside HMI. With this experience and her current inspection work, Maxine advises and supports colleagues in other schools. Maxine works nationally with governors on school improvement and the Ofsted framework.

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■ **Jo Coton** is currently an Interim Executive Headteacher of two primary schools in the London Borough of Redbridge. Jo began her teaching career in 1995, working in a variety of leadership roles, having taught across the primary age range. Jo has also experienced teaching in Australia for a year in 2005.

Jo began her first headship in 2009, taking over a school in challenging circumstances as acting head teacher. She was then appointed to the substantive post in 2010. During this time she has engineered radical change throughout the school, introducing a new curriculum, specialist teaching and smaller class sizes of optimum numbers. The benefits of these changes are reflected in the rapid and accelerated progress the children have made in their learning.



■ **Kate Dethridge** leads Churchend Primary Academy and has completed 14 years in this Headship. The school has twice been graded 'outstanding' by Ofsted (2005 and 2008) and the school is a National Support School. Kate has been a National Leader of Education for four years and was awarded a Fellowship with the National College last year. She has completed four short term Executive Headships. She has been a School Improvement Partner and worked with the National College to assess S.I.P. candidates.

Kate is an accredited Ofsted inspector and is a member of the Ofsted Primary Headteachers Reference Group. Kate was part of Lord Bew's panel that reviewed Key Stage 2 Assessment and Testing in 2011.



■ **Maggie Donaldson** works with schools nationally and was senior primary advisor for Reading Borough Council. She was previously Headteacher at St John's Primary School in Reading. Her experience covers a wide spectrum of education: VSO teacher/lecturer in India; teaching travellers; secondment to lead a 'Fresh Start' primary; consultant for Primary Strategy; work with HMI/Ofsted on developing the inspection of good and outstanding schools.



■ **Juliette Jackson** is currently the Executive Headteacher of two primary schools in the London borough of Camden and also works as a School Improvement Partner for various London boroughs. She is an accredited Ofsted inspector.

Over the past few years Juliette has led three schools out of Special Measures and moved one school from inadequate to outstanding. She works nationally on a wide range of school improvement projects.



■ **Amanda Jennings** is in her eighth year of headship having undertaken this post in two schools in the London Borough of Redbridge. Beginning her teaching career in 1994, she has worked in a variety of leadership roles in four large primary schools. Her first seven years as headteacher were spent in John Bramston Primary. The combination of the school's aspiration and creativity led to high levels of attainment and achievement in all aspects of school life.

Amanda has mentored headteachers, partnered two local schools, undertaken cross-borough school improvement work, and was a governor in an Essex school. Amanda joined Ray Lodge Primary School in September 2012 where its journey towards excellence has begun.



■ **Richard Kearsley** is a Deputy Headteacher at Baylis Court School, an outstanding multicultural arts academy for girls. He joined in September 2013. Prior to this, he was at Prospect School, Reading, most recently as Acting Headteacher. He was part of a senior management team who moved the school from notice to improve to good with outstanding features. Some of his key areas of responsibility were redesigning the curriculum and establishing highly effective data and tracking systems across the whole school.

Richard is an Ofsted inspector, holding both the NPQH and Professional Qualification for School Inspectors.



■ **Simon Knight** is a Deputy Headteacher at Frank Wise School in Banbury, a school for children aged between 2 – 19 with Severe or Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities, described by Ofsted as being "outstanding and inspirational".

Simon is the Subject Expert (SEN) for the Thames Valley Schools Partnership and a National College for School Leadership licensee. He is leading the development of a Primary QTS with Enhanced SEN programme of Initial Teacher Training in partnership with Brookes University and a number of Oxfordshire primary and special schools, using the School Direct model of delivery.



■ **Charlotte Lucas** has been working within Primary and Early Years settings for over 10 years. During this time she has focused on promoting and developing a Forest Schools curriculum, which she believes can provide settings for a sustainable and transformational learning programme like no other. As the founder and co-owner of Free Rangers Forest School Nursery, Charlotte believes that innovative thinking and forming positive partnerships can make great headway in overcoming the many challenges faced today within Early Years.

Charlotte also runs a Forest School training centre at All Hallows Preparatory School and is advising on the implementation and development of a software tool that embeds both "outstanding" practice and learning within Early Years settings.

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■ **Pamela Matty** has been head of Grove School in Handsworth, Birmingham for 15 years. Previously she led the maths advisory team in Birmingham, developing extended maths training programmes with the Open University, and promoting city-wide maths events to raise the profile of maths education.

Pamela is a member of the City of Birmingham Children's University Charitable Trust Status Steering Group, has supported the Birmingham Science Museum in developing interactive exhibits, and has written a wide range of articles and materials for Scholastic Education and other publishers. She speaks regularly at conferences as well as hosting visitors at Grove. She is an accredited Ofsted inspector.

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■ **Rhonda Moore** is Headteacher at Broadstone First School (R - Y4), a cohort one Teaching School in Poole, Dorset. Originally from Australia, she trained in Brisbane, and has taught in the UK for over 20 years. She works as a National College Associate across the South, supporting school leaders in Leadership and Curriculum development. As an NLE and currently completing her Ofsted inspectors training, Rhonda has worked with a variety of schools in all phases to support school improvement.

Rhonda passionately believes that the principles of learning in Early Years should be applied to all ages and year groups, and particularly enjoys working with schools to design "play" based learning experiences with real life contexts, to motivate and inspire learners.

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■ **Sheila Nolan** is NET Head of School/Academy Improvement.

Sheila joined NET in September 2013. She was previously Senior Inspector with Tribal Education, with lead responsibilities for inspecting across all phases and categories. She has extensive experience in leading the inspection of academies and Free Schools. She has worked as an additional inspector with HMI in school improvement, on mathematics subject surveys and in initial teacher training.

Sheila has led training for inspectors on data management and post 16 provision, and has considerable overseas experience as a trainer and inspector in international schools.

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■ **Chris Nourse** has been a primary headteacher for 10 years and currently leads Somerford Community Primary School, situated in an area of social deprivation in Christchurch, Dorset. Chris has recently returned from the Middle East where he was the founding Principal of an international primary school serving the local and expat communities.

Prior to this Chris led the amalgamation of an infant and junior school in Surrey, opened a children's centre, managed a unit for children with LD, and chaired a confederation of 16 schools and settings. Chris has also worked in Southampton, Wandsworth and Walthamstow.



■ **Harmer Parr** spent fifteen years as a teacher and senior manager in secondary schools in the West Country and East Anglia. He then worked as an adviser and inspector for a number of years in local authorities in the North-East, the West Midlands and the East of England.

Harmer retired from Ofsted in March 2008 having served for six years as an HMI, three of them in senior positions. He worked for two years in the School Improvement Division, monitoring and working with schools in categories of concern. In his last two years he was ADM in the Institutional Inspections and Frameworks Division. In this role he held national responsibility for the development and quality assurance of school inspections, and for leading the work on assessing the impact of Ofsted on the education system.

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■ **Mike Phipps** has 26 years experience in secondary education in five comprehensive schools, with 13 years at senior leadership level as Assistant Head, Deputy Head and Associate Headteacher in a large comprehensive school.

As a qualified Ofsted inspector Mike has led a substantial number of Ofsted inspections in primary and secondary schools and early years settings across the Midlands and South of England since October 2008. Mike acts as a mentor to new Ofsted inspectors. He has worked nationally and internationally, to carry out reviews of schools and subject departments, to analyse Raiseonline data, and to advise schools on changing from community to academy or trust status.

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■ **Laurence Pitt** has been headteacher of Ashley Down Junior School in Bristol since 2004. The school has been judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted. The school is expanding and was redesignated as a primary school from September 2010, taking on a new 210 pupil-place building in the locality.

Laurence has worked as a Consultant Leader, and then Local Leader of Education in Bristol since 2007 and has coordinated the New and Acting Headteachers' Induction Programme for the city. In 2010 he became a National Leader of Education and is involved nationally in curriculum development in new schools with NET.

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■ **Jane Ratcliffe** is Headteacher of St John's Primary School in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. She has been in post since 2010, and has worked in senior leadership and advisory roles in Oxfordshire for 15 years. Under her leadership, the school has been transformed into an innovative and creative place where independence and collaboration are at the centre of the inspiring curriculum.

She is committed to values education and has worked with other schools to develop the approach across Oxfordshire. She is interested in developing a thinking education system – from politicians to teachers to children. She is currently establishing a multi-academy trust with neighbouring primary schools.

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■ **Tony Ryles** has extensive experience as a school leader, most recently as Headteacher of Tomlinscote School and Sixth Form in Surrey, judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted. He has worked as an Executive Headteacher, supporting a school successfully on its journey out of special measures, and on a range of change management projects.

Tony has led leadership programmes with NCSL and other national bodies. He currently works on school improvement, leadership reviews, governor development, 14 - 19 and local authority strategy in a number of contexts.



■ **Dave Smith** has been a primary headteacher for 12 years and currently leads Longlevens Junior, a 4FE School on the outskirts of Gloucester. He has also served as LA Associate Adviser and Primary Strategy Consultant Leader. In recent years, Dave's position as a headteacher has been combined with system leadership roles with the National College, serving as SW Regional Associate for Schools from 2008 – 2010, and for the College's Models and Partnerships team 2009 – 2011.

Dave's real enthusiasm lies in developing rich, diverse curricular experiences for children; and supporting educational professionals to embrace a wider vision for successful learning. In 2010 Dave worked with Gareth Mills as National Associate for the National College's Curriculum Innovation programme.

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■ **Lucy Sumner** is NET Head of Early Education

Lucy has 20 years experience of teaching and management in Early Years settings and across the primary phase. She leads NET's DfE-funded Early Years Project, and works nationally as a consultant and adviser, doing pre-inspection checks, appraisals of Early Years/ Children's Centres manager, and other Early Years and Key Stage 1 related projects. As an accredited inspector for the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), she has undertaken Early Years inspections in a variety of settings all over the country. She is an LA Governor for a federation of three local authority nursery schools.

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■ **Mark Vickers** is an experienced school leader and consultant who works nationally in a range of school improvement roles. Until July 2009 Mark was the Executive Head teacher of Manhood Community College (11 – 18) in West Sussex where he combined the role with his work as an Associate with the National Children's Bureau. He was previously a senior leader for thirteen years in two schools on the south coast. Previous to that Mark worked for four years at the British International School in Thailand.

Mark is currently Chair of Trustees of the PSHE Association as well as a governor of a large FE College in West Sussex. He carries out a range of inspection work and support for alternative provisions in a range of settings.

## Research Associates



■ **Lucy Crehan** is undertaking an international education project, which sees her working in schools in 8 top performing education systems to learn what makes them successful, and to understand what can and can't be applied to England.

Before this she worked as an educational consultant and researcher for NET and for CfBT education trust, while studying for a Masters in Education Policy. She began her career teaching Science and RE for three years in a secondary comprehensive in Feltham.