



IMPROVING SOCIAL EQUITY THROUGH EDUCATION:

Raising outcomes for low achieving students

with **DR ANDREAS SCHLEICHER**
PROFESSOR PASI SAHLBERG
and **DR BILL MAXWELL**

EDINBURGH | 4-5 MAY 2015

JOHN MCINTYRE CONFERENCE CENTRE | UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH





How can we enable each and every child, whatever their starting point, to flourish and lead fulfilling lives and to become responsible and active members of society?

One of the biggest challenges facing education systems across Europe and further afield is how to improve outcomes - in the broadest possible sense - for low achieving children and young people in order to create a more equal society.

Whilst both politicians and educationalists are clear about the importance of this aim there is, as yet, inadequate understanding about how it can best be achieved.

Scandinavian countries tend to be less divided and their education systems more equitable and they have been mined for clues. But we know that good practice does not automatically transfer across national boundaries and cultures. The purpose of this symposium is to bring together educationalists and policy makers from across Europe in order to learn with and from each other in the task of bringing about change.

Andreas Schleicher, Director of Education and Skills at OECD and **Pasi Sahlberg**, Visiting Professor of Practice at Harvard and author of the highly-acclaimed Finnish Lessons will be the keynote speakers alongside **Bill Maxwell**, Chief Executive of Education Scotland. This event is being held in Scotland because of the explicit commitment of the Scottish Government to creating a fairer society and the work being done by Education Scotland to explore the role of education in this overarching aim.

The European Forum for Freedom in Education (**effe**) is a non-governmental organisation based in Germany which is committed to safeguarding the human rights and dignity of every child. The organisation was established in 1990, shortly after the fall of the Berlin wall in order to facilitate dialogue between east and west. In this its 25th year it is appropriate to return to our initial question and ask how can we enable each and every child, whatever their starting point, to flourish and lead fulfilling lives and to become responsible and active members of society.

The Symposium is being organised by the European Forum for Freedom in Education in association with Education Scotland - the national body supporting quality and improvement in Scottish education - and the University of Edinburgh.

PROGRAMME

MONDAY 4 MAY 2015 | EVENING RECEPTION

MEMBERS' ROOM AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

1830 Evening Reception

TUESDAY 5 MAY 2015 | SYMPOSIUM – Improving Social Equity through Education

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY, JOHN MCINTYRE CONFERENCE CENTRE

- 0915 Arrival and coffee
- 0930 Welcome and introduction – Fiona Carnie, Vice President, European Forum for Freedom in Education
- 0945 Welcome – Dr Mary Hoey, Assistant Director, Education Scotland
- 0950 Welcome – Professor Cristina Iannelli, University of Edinburgh
- 0955 **IMPROVING EQUITY AND QUALITY IN EDUCATION** – Dr Andreas Schleicher, Director of Education and Skills, OECD
- 1035 Roundtable discussion and questions
- 1115 Coffee
- 1135 **THE SCOTTISH CONTEXT** – Dr Bill Maxwell, Chief Executive, Education Scotland
- 1150 **LESSONS FROM FINLAND AND ELSEWHERE** – Professor Pasi Sahlberg, Visiting Professor of Practice, Harvard
- 1230 Roundtable discussion and questions
- 1315 Lunch
- 1400 **SHORT BLASTS FROM AROUND EUROPE** – examples of inspiring practice
- 1500 Discussion groups:
- Creating a supportive and inclusive school climate/environment for learning
 - Assessing students and evaluating schools in different ways
 - Supporting the ongoing professional development of teachers
 - Engaging parents and communities
 - Democratising school leadership and organisation
 - Concurrent session to present relevant research being carried out at the University of Edinburgh – Professor Cristina Iannelli, University of Edinburgh
- 1600 **ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE** – Aileen Monaghan, Education Scotland
- 1620 Closing comments
- 1630 Refreshments

VENUE

The Evening Reception on Monday 4 May will take place at the Scottish Parliament, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH99 1SP. The Conference on Tuesday 5 May will take place at the John McIntyre Conference Centre, University of Edinburgh, Holyrood Park Road, Edinburgh EH16 5AY.

BOOKING

The cost of attending the symposium is £110.

Places can only be booked online with a credit card at:

<https://eventbrite.co.uk/event/6270692811/>

The conference fee covers attendance at the Evening Reception on 4 May and at the Symposium on 5 May, including refreshments and a buffet lunch. Places are limited and so you are advised to book early.

TOUR OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

There is an opportunity for delegates to have a tour of the Scottish Parliament building prior to the Evening Reception. The tour will take place from 18.00-18.30. If you would like to join the tour please book your place by emailing contact@effe-eu.org

VISIT TO ROSSLYN CHAPEL

There is an opportunity to visit Rosslyn Chapel on the afternoon of Monday 4 May. If you would like to participate in this visit please book your place by emailing contact@effe-eu.org
Limited places available so please book early.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the event please email contact@effe-eu.org

ACCOMMODATION

The fee does not include accommodation. For those requiring accommodation there are many hotels in Edinburgh. A number of rooms have been reserved at Motel One Edinburgh Royal in the city centre at a cost of £98.50 for single occupancy and £123 for double occupancy and also at the University's Masson House Guest House (a 15 minute walk from the centre and close to the Conference Centre) at a discounted rate of £64 for a single room and £80 for a double room. All prices include en suite facilities and breakfast.

To book a room at Motel One email: res.edinburgh-royal@motel-one.com and quote **European Forum**.

To book a room at Masson House visit: <http://www.edinburghfirst.co.uk/for-accommodation/masson-house/> and quote **CONF15**.

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