



**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**  
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### **The Education Partnership**

I write to invite you to become a member of a new group which I intend to establish – the Education Partnership.

I know that at the last meeting of the Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group (WAMG) on 19 May my Minister of State, Nick Gibb, had a frank and helpful discussion with the partners present, who expressed their views about WAMG's impact and the advantages and disadvantages of its ways of working.

I appreciate the role that WAMG has played in improving relations between partners and government and contributing to policy delivery; and its partners' commitment to WAMG, over the past seven years.

It is my own strong wish to establish, as soon as possible, a mutually beneficial, constructive and structured dialogue with key organisations that reflect the interests of the diverse school workforce and its employers. I believe, however, that it is time now to establish a new group, with a more inclusive membership and a new focus.

I propose that the new Partnership should operate sometimes on a consultative, sometimes on a consensual basis, depending on the specific matter under discussion. I hope that this will free its members to express their views candidly and also help to expedite business.

I want the Education Partnership to consider (as I know WAMG did) the implications of my Department's policy for the school workforce and I would welcome your suggestions for the Partnership's work programme over the next six months. My own immediate priorities for the Partnership's consideration are:

- how together we can reduce bureaucracy, so as to free school staff to focus on raising standards; and

- pupil behaviour and discipline; how we can strengthen staff authority and minimise opportunities for challenge to it; toughen school discipline and make it easier for teachers to deal with violent incidents and remove disruptive pupils or items from the classroom; and improve radically the environment in which disruptive and excluded pupils are educated.

Attached to this letter is a list of the organisations which I am inviting to join the Education Partnership and some proposed principles and terms of reference. I look forward to receiving your views and welcoming you to its inaugural meeting.

MICHAEL GOVE