



Department
for Education

Improving Education Together meeting notes from 4 April 2025

Date: 4 April 2025

Venue: Church House

Chair: Secretary of State for Education

IET Members:

- Association of Colleges
- Association of School and College Leaders
- Catholic Education Service
- Community
- Church of England National Society for Education
- Confederation of School Trusts
- Department for Education
- GMB
- Local Government Association
- NAHT
- NASUWT
- NEOST
- National Education Union
- SFCA
- UCU
- Unison
- Unite

DfE Secretariat:

- Board Secretary
- Secretary of State's Private Office
- IET Subgroup Chairs
- Officials

Meeting summary

The board agreed the theory of change and the notes of the launch meeting in January, noting that all actions have been taken forward (with one outstanding physical signature to replace a virtual one on the Framework Agreement).

Opportunity Mission

The Chair introduced the item on the Opportunity Mission, speaking to her vision and to the Mission way of working across government. Officials added greater detail on progress so far, emphasising how important deep engagement is to Mission-based working.

The board's general welcome for the Mission and excitement about what could be achieved led into discussion on the vision underlying the Opportunity Mission narrative, how it can be monitored, shared and developed, and what it means for IET's work.

Workforce

The workforce subgroup presented a package of policy options, asking the board if they were willing to agree this package (or a variation of it) and for the subgroup to focus on its implementation over the next term.

Two areas outside the current remit of the subgroup were also brought to the board's attention: a strategic conversation on pupil behaviour and the question of where work on parental complaints should sit.

The board agreed that the package of proposals should be taken forward but prioritised to ensure effective delivery. A few points of feedback were shared in the room to support prioritisation and refinement of the work.

The board also agreed that work on complaints and on pupil behaviour should go ahead and flagged the need for greater emphasis on AI & tech.

SEND

The SEND subgroup presented a progress update on its work towards bringing policy options to the board for its next termly meeting.

The board discussed the current challenges around SEND and the wider impacts not just in schools and colleges but visible in NEET figures and impacting on the workforce, and provided steers to inform the work of the subgroup.

Accountability

The Accountability subgroup updated the board on challenging discussions over the past few months, leading to a frank and considered discussion about the context of the work and areas of disagreement between IET members.

The board concluded that there was always going to be a tension between Ofsted's independence, the government's manifesto commitment, and the desire to discuss accountability, and agreed that it is useful and important to keep working together on difficult issues.

AOB

SoS led the IET board in recognising Patrick Roach's commitment to the creation of IET and all of his contributions to the work of the group, as this was his last board meeting before he stepped down as NASUWT General Secretary.

Actions

- Secretary of State to lead a further Opportunity Mission discussion at the June IET Schools & Colleges Board meeting.
- The IET Secretariat to action the administrative business of the board and come back with more specifics on taking forward the work on complaints and behaviour, and with a proposal on how we can do more together through IET on tech & AI.
- IET Board members to send through any further thoughts they have on the policy options package from the Workforce Subgroup to inform its prioritisation.
- The Workforce Subgroup to focus on implementing the package of policy options this coming term.
- The SEND Subgroup to absorb IET Board steers and draw together its work in order to return to the June meeting with concrete policy proposals.
- The Accountability Subgroup to revisit its forward agenda and prioritisation and keep working on these difficult issues.
- The Accountability Subgroup to hold its next meeting before the Ofsted consultation closes on 28 April and focus on the consultation response.

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