

#Pause Ofsted

Today, the core group of the Headteachers' Roundtable agreed to formally request all school-based employees to resign as Ofsted Additional Inspectors, with immediate effect. They have called on unions and other professional associations to recommend this "quiet revolution" to members, and "to ensure no school-based employees involve themselves in inspection." This is with a view to securing fundamental reform of Ofsted.

[You can click here to see the article in Schools Week.](#)

In response, the Leadership Council of the National Education Union has pledged its support of the #PauseOfsted campaign and is advising NEU members not to work for Ofsted as additional inspectors.

It is time to reform Ofsted, an inspectorate which:

- Drives good teachers and school leaders unfairly from the profession;
- Exhausts teachers and leaders as they struggle to adapt to constantly changing inspection frameworks (4 in 5 years);
- Destroys the reputation of schools in deprived areas, which are doing the best work in the most difficult circumstances. These schools are not 'stuck', they have been let down by inadequate funding and support. Ofsted has consistently failed to call this out.
- Imposes inspection frameworks which are untried and untested on schools, leading to poor inspection judgements;
- Makes schools the scapegoat for rising child poverty, which is the real enemy of learning and progress.

The NEU asks these fundamental questions:

Is Ofsted doing good by inspecting and grading other schools when its grades are biased against schools in deprived areas, doing the best work with children and young people who are most in need?

How can teacher and leader workload be reduced with the current school accountability framework driving excessive workload?

And, most importantly, are school leaders acting as additional inspectors doing real harm by perpetuating inequality amongst schools and shaming fellow professionals?

Our union supports ethical leadership and we call upon our members who are additional inspectors to stop working for Ofsted.

It is time to take back our pride and professionalism. It is time for an independent inspectorate which is both trustworthy and trusted by teachers and leaders. It is time to radically reform Ofsted.

Mary Bousted Kevin Courtney
Joint General Secretary Joint General Secretary
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