

## All Party Parliamentary Group for Schools Learning and Assessment

### AGM report

January 2026

#### Introduction

This document provides details of the activities, management and future plans of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Schools, Learning and Assessment for the reporting year 26 November 2024 to 25 November 2025. This includes details of the purpose of the APPG; membership; events held during the reporting year; and details of future events.

#### APPG Purpose

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Schools, Learning and Assessment exists to promote and support school level education, the quality of learning, assessment and outcomes for all pupils.

#### APPG Officers

The officers of the APPG during the period 26 November 2024 to 25 November 2025 were:

Chair: Peter Swallow MP (Lab)  
 Co-Chair: Tristan Osborne MP (Lab)  
 Officers: Baroness O'Neill of Bexley (Con)  
 Sam Carling (Lab)

The officers of the APPG as of 26 January 2026 are:

Chair: Peter Swallow MP (Lab)  
 Co-Chair: Tristan Osborne MP (Lab)  
 Officers: Baroness O'Neill of Bexley (Con)  
 Chris Vince (Lab)

#### APPG Membership

As of 26 January 2026, membership of the APPG stands at 25. Members include:

Members of Parliament		Peers	
Name	Party	Name	Party
Peter Swallow MP	Labour	Baroness O'Neill of Bexley	Conservative
Tristan Osborne MP	Labour	Baroness Blower	Labour
Sam Carling MP	Labour	Lord Hampton	Crossbench
Jack Abbott MP	Labour (Co-op)	Lord Knight of Weymouth	Labour
Ian Byrne MP	Labour	Baroness Morris of Yardley	Labour
Ellie Chowns MP	Green Party	Lord Storey	Liberal Democrat
Natalie Fleet MP	Labour	Lord Watson of Invergowrie	Labour

Marie Goldman MP	Labour
Sharon Hodgson MP	Labour
Rupa Huq MP	Labour
Kim Johnson MP	Labour
Andy MacNae MP	Labour
Amanda Martin MP	Labour
Rachael Maskell MP	Labour (Co-op)
Sam Rushworth MP	Labour
Mark Sewards MP	Labour
Chris Vince MP	Labour
Jodie Gosling MP	Labour

### **Secretariat services**

The National Education Union (NEU) was elected as the secretariat for the Group. The NEU is responsible for arranging meetings and formally administering any business. The NEU will work closely with, and has already engaged with, other organisations and APPGs in this area to ensure that the Group is collaborative and effective in its outputs. The NEU has budgeted for the provision of secretariat services for the APPG for the year ahead.

### **APPG activities (26 November 2024 to 25 November 2025)**

Over the reporting year, the APPG held a series of meetings examining key challenges facing education and their impact on children, families and educators.

- In January 2025, the APPG focused on teacher workload, recruitment and retention, hearing evidence from Daniel Kebede, General Secretary of the NEU, on how excessive workload, inadequate pay and poor wellbeing are driving the staffing crisis across the profession.
- In February 2025, the APPG examined curriculum and assessment reform, taking evidence from Professor Becky Francis CBE, Chair of the Curriculum and Assessment Review, on the review's work to ensure the national curriculum and statutory assessment system are fit for purpose and meet the needs of children and young people.
- In March 2025, the APPG held a joint meeting with the APPG for Parents on child poverty and the hidden costs of schooling, based on [The Missing Chapter Report](#). Evidence was provided by Frank Young, Parentkind, Ed Harlow, NEU, and Jonathan Capstick and Gillian Hudson from the government's Child Poverty Unit, which was jointly sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department of Education and HM Treasury.
- In April 2025, the APPG considered Ofsted and school inspection, scrutinising proposals for the then new 'report card' system. The session heard from Dame Alison Peacock, Chief Executive of the Chartered College of Teaching, Dr Kulvarn Atwal, Executive Headteacher of Highlands Primary School and Uphall Primary School, and Professor Julia Waters, sister of Ruth Perry, on the impact of inspection reform on educators, pupils and families.

- In July 2025, the APPG examined misogyny in schools and the role of social media, hearing evidence from Dr Kaitlyn Regehr, University College London, Natasha Devon MBE, Dr Craig Haslop, University of Liverpool, and Flora Letanka, The Economist Educational Foundation on safeguarding, online harms and education.
- In October 2025, the APPG turned to school funding and value for money, exploring whether reducing reliance on private providers could help protect school budgets. The discussion focused on outsourcing, marketisation and inefficiencies in areas such as school catering and supply teaching, in the context of ongoing pressures on public spending.

### **APPG future activities**

For the coming reporting year, the APPG has agreed to focus on a single topic rather than holding meetings on a range of issues. The chosen focus will be an inquiry into Votes at 16.

With the introduction of votes at 16 at the next UK general election, the inquiry will examine how the education system can enact democratic values in everyday school life so that young people leave education feeling empowered, enfranchised, and prepared to participate fully in society. The inquiry will consider both the formal teaching of democracy, critical thinking, and online literacy, as well as how democratic practices are embedded in school pedagogy and culture.

Written evidence will also be welcomed from any individual or organisation and a series of oral evidence sessions will also take place with three key groups: young people, teachers and educators, and from stakeholders in Wales, Scotland, and other contexts that already have votes at 16.

Supported by an academic researcher, the APPG will produce a report that outlines the role that schools can play in enacting democratic values and practices so that young people leave education feeling empowered, enfranchised, and ready to participate fully in society. The report will present a set of recommendations for the actions government could take to support schools in achieving this.

The inquiry will run through to the summer, after which the APPG will determine its further activity for the reporting year.

**Appendix A – Income and Expenditure Statement for APPG for Schools, Learning and Assessment**
**Name of APPG**

Schools, Learning and Assessment

**Period covered by this statement**

26 November 2024 – 25 November 2025

£

<b>A. Balance brought forward from previous year:</b>	£0
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<b>B. Income received during the year:</b>	
i. Membership subscriptions (parliamentarians)	£0
ii. Monetary donations (including external subscriptions and sponsorship)	£0
iii. Trading income	£0
iv. Interest received	£0
v. Other (please explain)	£0
<b>TOTAL income</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>C. Expenditure during the year:</b>	
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i. Employment costs (salaries, NI, pensions costs )	£0
ii. Costs of contractors and freelance staff	£0
iii. Visits and events (UK)	£0
iv. Visits and events (abroad)	£0
v. Cost of generating income	£0
vi. Office and communications costs	£0
vii. Other (please explain)	
<b>TOTAL expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>D. Balance carried forward ( A+ total B-total C)</b>	<b>0</b>
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<p><b>E. Value of benefits in kind received from each source during the reporting year (in bands of up to £1,500; £1,501-£3,000; £3,001 to £4,500; £4,501 to £6,000 etc )</b></p> <p><b>Please itemise according to the source and band</b></p>	<p><i>The National Education Union, £4,501 – £6,000, provision of secretariat services</i></p>
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<b>Signed by Chair of Group:</b>  <b>Date:</b> 10 <del>9</del> .02.26	
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### Appendix B – Due Diligence Statement

Name of APPG: APPG for Schools, Learning and Assessment	
Secretariat Assurance Statement	
All members of the secretariat are fully identified.	Yes
I [APPG Officer undertaking due diligence] understand who else the secretariat members work for and their external responsibilities.	Yes
I know whether the secretariat members are paid or remunerated, and if so, by whom.	Yes
They have confirmed they are not part of, working for or funded by a foreign government.	Yes
Where a group, charity, company, etc, is providing or finding the secretariat, I know how that entity is funded.	Yes
The group, charity or organisation has stated it is not funded, directly or indirectly, by a foreign government.	Yes
Online Research	
Individual, group or company providing secretariat has a publicly available online presence.	Yes
Individual, group or company appears elsewhere online (e.g. news articles, blogs) linked to a foreign government.	Confirmed Secretariat does not appear elsewhere online linked to a foreign government.
Online presence does not confirm or infer a link to a foreign government, now or in the past.	Confirmed online presence is not linked to a foreign government.
If appropriate, Companies House checks have been conducted and results considered.	N/A
Signed:  Date: 10 <del>9</del> .02.26	Role of Member in the APPG: chair