

New inspection regime, same problems, says NUT

Commenting on the announcement today of new short notice inspections of schools, John Bangs, head of education at the NUT, said:

“The high stakes nature of inspections has not changed. No matter how much the Government claims to trust schools, these changes do not reflect that trust.

“Schools and individual teachers still face the prospect of failure based on a narrow focus. Teachers in the core subjects in secondary schools will have an unfair burden placed on them. The problems of the current system are replicated in the new.

“There seems to be no reduction in the paper work demanded, just less time for the schools to prepare it. This will force schools to re-focus their attention on to the inspection when the education of their pupils should be at the centre of their work.

“The pressure can only lead to further demoralisation among teachers.

“There are many teachers who will find the prospect of reducing the agonising run up to inspections attractive. That is understandable but the reality is that in the year their school is to be inspected, the anticipation will dominate thinking from the beginning of the year till the inspection takes place. This is no way to ensure the inspection is supportive. Instead it is likely to demotivate teachers.”

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