



... children, their world, their education

## CAMBRIDGE PRIMARY REVIEW ROYALTIES GO TO ORGANISATIONS TACKLING DISADVANTAGE

Those who are familiar with *Children, their World, their Education: final report of the Cambridge Primary Review* will know that its contributing authors decided that royalties from the book's sales should go to organisations that support children who are vulnerable, marginalised or otherwise disadvantaged (see the report's Introduction, pxvi). Their decision reflected one of CPR's key recommendations:

**While recent concerns should be heeded about the pressures to which today's children are subject, and the undesirable values, influences and experiences to which many are exposed, the main focus of policy should continue to be on narrowing the gaps in income, housing, care, risk, opportunity and educational attainment suffered by a significant minority of children, rather than on prescribing the character of the lives of the majority. The government's efforts to narrow the gap in all outcomes between vulnerable children and the rest deserves the strongest possible support.** (*Children, their World, their Education*, p 488).

CPR argued this not just because such inequalities represent a massive social blight but also because the evidence shows that the maps of social disadvantage and educational underachievement tend to coincide. (The reference above to 'the government's efforts' related to Labour initiatives such as the Children's Plan and Narrowing the Gap. The present government has introduced the Pupil Premium).

During the period of dissemination and debate that followed the final report's publication, which also happened to coincide with the run-up to the 2010 general election, we encountered widespread support for our view that tackling this double gap must be given absolute priority, and it therefore headed the list of post-election policy priorities that we published in April 2010 and presented to party leaders and their education spokespersons:

**Policy priority 1. Accelerate the drive to reduce England's gross and overlapping gaps in wealth, wellbeing and educational attainment**, all of them far wider in England than most other developed countries. Understand that teachers can do only so much to close the attainment gap for as long as the lives of so many children are blighted by poverty and disadvantage. Excellence requires equity. (*Policy Priorities for Primary Education*, [http://www.primaryreview.org.uk/downloads/revise\\_2011-02/POLICY\\_PRIORITIES\\_BRIEFING\\_REVIS\\_2\\_11.pdf](http://www.primaryreview.org.uk/downloads/revise_2011-02/POLICY_PRIORITIES_BRIEFING_REVIS_2_11.pdf))

Since then, royalties from sales of *Children, their World, their Education* have been accumulating in a special fund held on our behalf by Cambridge University. Now, in June 2012, the CPR has made substantial donations from this fund to the following:

- **Nurture Group Network** <http://www.nurturegroups.org/>  
Nurture groups – usually of 6-8 children with two adults – provide a short term, focussed, intervention strategy which addresses barriers to learning arising from social / emotional and or behavioural difficulties, in an inclusive, supportive manner. There are currently around 1500 nurture groups in the UK.
- **ICAN** <http://www.ican.org.uk/>  
ICAN's mission is to ensure that no child who struggles to communicate is left out or left behind. Its vision is a world where all children and young people who struggle to communicate receive the help they need so that they can have a happy childhood, make progress at school and thrive as adults.

- **Countryside Learning** <http://www.countrysidelearning.org/category/about-us>  
Countryside Learning connects children, families and teachers, especially those from inner-city environments, with the countryside, using the knowledge gained and extra resource facilities available through Countryside Learning to take back to the classroom to enhance the school curriculum and the quality of learning.
- **Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts** <http://www.childrenandarts.org.uk/>  
Children & the Arts engages with disadvantaged children nationwide who do not have access to high-quality arts activity because of either social or economic barriers. Through a network of partners they use the arts as a platform to inspire and enable personal and social development amongst those who are hardest to reach.
- **Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and Other Travellers** <http://www.acert.org.uk/>  
ACERT promotes the rights of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, giving particular attention to their educational needs but also working in the areas of health, accommodation and planning, policing and hate crime, care and resettlement of offenders, welfare and social inclusion.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The 2012 donations from the CPR's royalties fund focus attention on just five of the many charities and organisations that are working to support children and families who are vulnerable, disadvantaged, marginalised or discriminated against. We hope you will follow the links above to find out more about them.

Assuming that *Children, their World, their Education* continues to sell, CPR will make donations to other organisations next year. **If you do not already own a copy of *Children, their World, their Education*, we would urge you to order one now, knowing that by doing so you will simultaneously support two missions: improving the quality of primary education for all the nation's children, and helping those children who experience particular disadvantage.**

After reading *Children, their World, their Education* the head teacher of one of Britain's largest primary schools said this: 'What an inspirational book! I have been a head teacher for twenty years and this is the best book on primary education that I have ever read.' And Britain's most distinguished educational correspondent said: 'This is the most thorough, research-based analysis of primary schools I have seen in over two decades of reporting on education. It should carry the testimonial "This book should change primary schools forever." ' Why not take their advice? [http://www.primaryreview.org.uk/publications/final\\_report.php](http://www.primaryreview.org.uk/publications/final_report.php)

**We are of course aware of the thousands of teachers who dedicate themselves tirelessly to tackling social and educational disadvantage. We hope that this initiative by CPR will help to celebrate their work too.**

Robin Alexander  
Director, Cambridge Primary Review  
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