



CEN News

Back to previous page

News Home

Home > News Home > City Edition > Primary education up before the beak

Print page

City Edition

Primary education up before the beak

Ely Edition

A MASSIVE review of primary school education was launched yesterday (Friday, 13 October) - and the man directing the inquiry is Professor Robin Alexander, a Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge.

Huntingdon & St Ives Edition

The two-year review aims to help shape the future of how children are taught in their first years of formal education.

Newmarket Edition

Those behind it are a team of 60 researchers from universities across the UK and a 20-member advisory committee.

Region-wide

The review, the most comprehensive of its kind since the Plowden Report of 1967, will focus on how the current system is working and how it can be improved.

Messageboards

It will also assess the impact of the past two decades of Government policies on how young children learn.

In Depth

Government education bosses welcomed the debate, but said primary school education has never been better.

Features

Professor Alexander will direct the review.

Columnists

He told the News: "Forty years on from the last major inquiry into primary education and with two decades of Government initiatives behind us, it's time to take stock.

Letters

"How well are we doing? Where are we heading? What kind of education should young children receive?"
 "This is an independent review and it will ask the questions that need to be asked, without fear or favour.

Search Archive

"We urge all who are concerned about the education which young children receive and the world in which they are growing up to take advantage of the opportunity which the review provides."

Free RSS Feeds

The launch follows three years of planning and consultation involving the Government, opposition parties, national educational agencies and teaching unions.

Weather

The review is supported by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, one of the largest independent grant-making bodies in the UK.

CEN Sport

A spokesman for the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) said primary school standards are at their highest ever level.

CEN Business

He said: "Our Primary National Strategy has delivered a substantial and sustained improvement in primary results since 1997."

CEN Lifestyle

CEN Marketplace

The spokesman added that the department is "never complacent" and has recently implemented the results of a review into reading skills.

Also in section

- ▶ Mr Choi's 8mph trek brings chaos to A14
- ▶ Man, 31, escapes jail after stabbing couple
- ▶ Street scuffle man was armed

Online Poll

Do you feel uncomfortable seeing a woman wearing a veil?

Yes

No

CEN People

CEN Quicklinks

Welcoming the study, John Coe, of the National Association for Primary Education, said: "This would be an independent study free from political considerations, and that is why we would like a tough examination of the policies of the last 15 years."

Dr Mary Bousted, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "There is much wrong with primary schooling, so ATL strongly supports the two-year review announced today (Saturday, 14 October).

"Currently primary schooling is far too rigid and is focused too much on forcefeeding children information.

"Children are struggling with overtesting and an inappropriate curriculum, which concentrates too narrowly on teaching them to pass tests rather than on learning skills in the right environment and at the right pace for the children involved."

14 October 2006

Cambridge
Evening News

[Back to top](#)

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