

[Home](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Reviews](#)

[Community](#)

[Resources](#)

[News](#)

[Subscribe](#)

Search for in TES Website

NEWS & OPINION

> [Back to search results](#)

Inspections conflict with values of teachers

Dorothy Lepkowska

Published: 29 February 2008

The extent and pace of change in the inspection of primary schools over the past 15 years has over-burdened teachers and led to heightened stress within the profession.

Researchers at Cambridge University found that cultural and political expectations of inspectors and politicians had conflicted with "the holistic and humanist values" of teachers.

But inspections also had a positive side. They inspired solidarity and support between colleagues. And one successful head suggested her school would not have clawed its way up from the bottom of the league tables without them.

The study into quality assurance by Peter Cunningham and Philip Raymont, as part of the Primary Review, examined the procedures for monitoring, assuring and maintaining quality in primary education. It noted that inspection of schools has been going in some form since 1839, and there were cases dating back more than 100 years of teacher suicides as a result of inspectors' judgements.

More recently, however, there was greater impact on the curriculum and teaching methods. The study found that the use of inspections to achieve accountability was linked to educational expenditure, which had been used "to control teachers as well as schools". Inspections had led to teachers doubting their abilities and competence.

But some teachers welcome them. Deans Primary in Salford was bottom of the league tables when it opened in 1994. Last year it achieved an outstanding Ofsted report. Headteacher Frances Hartley said: "The main aim of primary schools is to ensure pupils begin their secondary education being able to read and write. Inspections are stressful but they help us to focus. I would not want things to become all cosy again."

The study concluded that greater use of self-evaluation should be examined. It said: "Monitoring of standards has to be credible and transparent, to provide reliable data and to be supportive of values that reflect a wide variety of aspirations".

The report comes after the TES revealed that the new "light touch" inspection regime has led to almost every school visited last year finding its overall verdict matched the verdict on pupils' standards.

[Print Story](#) [Save Story](#) [Discuss Story](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Subscribe from just 53p an issue

ADVERTISEMENT



[Home](#) | [TES Jobs](#) | [Community](#) | [Reviews & Resources](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Register](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Information](#) | [How to Advertise](#)

TES Editorial © 2007 TSL Education Ltd. We welcome your feedback. All pages of the Website are subject to our terms and conditions and privacy policy. You must not reproduce, duplicate, copy, sell, resell or exploit any material on the Website for any commercial purposes. TSL Education Limited does not pre-screen material posted by users of the Website but if you believe that any material is inappropriate or that it has been posted in breach of our terms and conditions please let us know immediately by sending an appropriately worded email to webmaster@tes.co.uk or by telephone +44(0)20 3194 3051.