

Publication in Autumn 2020

An opportunity for the children and young people in every school to set out what they would like their schools to look like.

The authors of any essays published will be invited to the launch in Parliament and a reception in Westminster.

The current closure of schools offers a unique opportunity to ask today's school students what they think of the current education system and the changes they would like the schools they will return to.

For the next six months, students will not be at school, nor will they be socialising with their peers. They will have time to reflect on what they feel school should be about and how schools could change.

In the last decade, the national curriculum has been more tightly determined by Government. The curriculum has narrowed considerably, as a direct result of the focus on English and mathematics at Key Stages 1 and 2 and by the introduction of the Ebac and Progress 8 at Key Stages 3 and 4. Schools struggle to find time to deal with major shifts in the lives of young people.

Principal shifts include: the rise and rise of social media; a corresponding need for young people to become more resilient; and the threats posed to their future, primarily by climate change and, now, by the pandemic.

The Coronavirus pandemic, which is moving inexorably across the United Kingdom (and impacting on every country on the planet), will surely mean that what could now be described as normal service will not be resumed. Governments will have to re-engineer education to meet the new reality that is, as yet, unknown.

The School I'd Like:2020 will gather its evidence from a self-selecting sample of children from primary, special and secondary schools and will detail: what students like about school; what they don't like about school; and how they think school could be improved. Their comments will range from the detail of their school lives to the big picture changes they would like to see.

Some of the quick wins might easily be implemented as, indeed, might some of the bigger changes suggested. Some of the more radical ideas will need more reflection and will take more time to deliver.

In addition to listing their likes, dislikes and hopes, they will be invited to submit a piece of prose, or a poem, which sets out their vision for the school they would like.

*Chris Waterman was re-sitting his A levels in 1967, the year that *The School That I'd Like*, by Edward Blishen, was published as a Penguin Education Special. With re-sits over at the end of January, Chris left secondary school one Friday and the following Monday started as an unqualified teacher at Solent Road Junior School in Portsmouth.*

He was seamlessly continuing in the education system designed after the Second War, being given a fourth-year class (Year 6) that had already taken the 11+.

After reading English and American Literature at Warwick University and gaining a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Primary), Chris taught in two primary schools in Newbury, spending three years as Deputy Head. He became an Education Officer for Hillingdon and, after two years commuting to Stockholm to work as a management information consultant, was the Education Officer for London Councils.

After several years as the Executive Director of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), Chris is now a Policy Adviser on Children and Young People, working in the Commons and the Lords. He is the Secretary of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Teaching Profession. He writes regularly for the trade press and sings for his supper at conferences.

The School I'd Like: 2020

RE-ENGINEERING EDUCATION
What do students want in 2020?
What should we offer them?



Edited by Chris Waterman

Published by the IRIS Press

For details of how to take part visit www.theschoolidlike.com