

## Guardian Letters - Tuesday 15 April 2014

### Change of direction needed on schools

David Laws has noticed the approaching general election ([Boost for teachers](#), 15 April), but his attempt to distance himself from the disastrous education policies of the coalition government is unconvincing. Much more than pre-election posturing is needed. The government should change direction. A responsible government would:

- Champion collaboration between schools based on successful initiatives like the London Challenge, instead of forcing schools to compete against each other.
- Raise training standards for all school staff and provide for continuous professional development, instead of employing more unqualified teachers.
- Commit to the principle that every child is entitled to a good education by ensuring that every school has the same powers, obligations and level of financial support.
- Embrace the principle of inclusion and open all state-funded schools to all students, instead of allowing thousands of English children to be branded 11-plus failures.
- Use highly qualified professionals to set national standards and offer supportive local inspection and advisory services to schools, instead of wasting money on a privatised inspection system.
- Develop a broad and balanced curriculum for all state-funded schools which includes the arts and has space for innovation and creativity.

Rather than the whims and harebrained ideas of Michael Gove and David Laws, we will be campaigning for a fair and inclusive education policy based on evidence, professionalism and a strong sense of responsibility to every child in England.

**Melian Mansfield**, *Chair*, **Keith Lichman** *Secretary*, [Campaign for State Education](#); **John Edmonds** *Chair*, [Comprehensive Future](#); **Margaret Jones** *Director*, [Information for School and College Governors](#); **Sheila Dore**, *Chair*, **Martin Dore** *General secretary*, [Socialist Education Association](#)