

Self Description February 2007

David Reynolds

David Reynolds is one of the UK's most highly regarded researchers in the fields of school effectiveness and school improvement. His experience is, firstly, as an academic who has researched 'what makes a good school' and 'how to make schools good' for thirty years, publishing 19 books and over 200 articles, chapters and papers. This material has attempted to push out the boundaries of the field into looking at what makes different countries do particularly well, at the particular problems of ineffective or failing schools and at whether school improvement can learn from the characteristics of 'failure free' sectors of private industry (the High Reliability Schools Project).

Secondly, David Reynolds has attempted to take his knowledge bases into government and public policy. He was a member of the Literacy Task Force from 1995 to 1997, Chaired the Numeracy Task Force from 1997 to 1999 (for which he received a CBE), and from 1999 to 2006 acted as an Advisor to the DfES in the areas of Threshold Assessment/teacher effectiveness, performance management, Schools Facing Challenging Circumstances, the City Academies, school improvement and the Leading Edge Programme, together with work just being completed on within school variation.

He also has Board level experience on BECTA, and the TTA/now TDA.

Thirdly, he has attempted to take his ideas to the general public through use of the media. He broadcasts regularly (mostly in Wales), and has, for example, had an entire 'Panorama' programme on his work (Hard Lessons From Abroad, 1996). He also has a fortnightly education column in the Welsh national newspaper The Western Mail.

David Reynolds would be able to use his experience in the following key areas for the Innovation Trust:

- In accessing the most up to date research and practice based knowledge about what the Trust should be doing in the areas of ICT, teaching/learning and general school improvement;
- In coalition building of diverse groups into an organisation with coherent purpose and vision;
- In relating to key policymakers, politicians and civil servants to ensure that the Trust's achievements are recognised.