

Follow up submission from Association of Teachers and Lecturers

In evidence I had referred to a study of OFSTED inspection outcomes in my evidence and had indicated I would get the reference for that.

I had referred to recent statistics (2010,11,12) from the Education and Training Inspectorate, and said that one would expect that if the Inspectorate really took account of social class, and the advantages or disadvantages that particular schools face, that you'd find that schools in each social band would show the same broad range of inspection grades. What you actually find, is that schools with the most advantaged intake band are twice as likely to get an "Outstanding" or "Very Good" inspection grade than those from the least advantaged – and that schools from the least advantaged social band are four times more likely to receive an "Inadequate" or "Unsatisfactory" grade than those from the most advantaged intake band.

These findings mirror a recent very high quality research study done by the RSA and OfSTED into the characteristics of satisfactory schools[1].

[1] Becky Francis RSA (Un)Satisfactory? Enhancing Life Chances by Improving 'Satisfactory' Schools, December 2011, see <http://www.thersa.org/action-research-centre/education/social-justice/satisfactory-schools>

The report reveals that schools stuck in the 'satisfactory' grade have a higher number of disadvantaged pupils and working class pupils. Outstanding schools take their fair share of neither. This finding is important. Outstanding schools disproportionately have advantaged pupil intakes. Satisfactory schools have proportionately disadvantaged intakes.

I hope this helps,

Mark