
The Heart of the Matter

Why are teachers upset with Gove?

Is it because we are 'Govephobic'?

Is it because we are illogical, bandwagon jumping, kitten herders?

Is it because it is fashionable, and everyone likes to be in vogue?

Is it because we shy away from evidence and are blind to facts?

Is it that we are all scared of change?

Is it that we are all just a little bit stupid, because we are not all white, male, middle class, and schooled at Eton and then Oxford?

or ...

is it something else?

Is it that free schools and academy agenda is fragmenting our world class state education system beyond repair, leaving it open to market forces and unscrupulous privateers?

Is it that this massive social experiment Gove is pursuing in the name of 'choice', is allowing amateurs to throw millions down the drain setting up experimental schools staffed by non teachers; schools which provide neither equitable or adequate education and that draw funds away from well run, state schools staffed by qualified and dedicated professionals?

Is it that by dismantling the national pay scale, tearing up the teachers' pay and conditions document, and through PRP, Gove is cynically pitting teacher against teacher, old against young?

Is it that Gove is treating a dedicated, highly skilled workforce like disposable commodities, disregarding the need for children to have stable, happy staff, in

schools with a mixture of older and younger teachers; environments where young professionals can be supported by the more experienced, and not given monetary incentives to try and jump the career ladder?

Is it perhaps, because tests that Gove rushed through for primary aged pupils: The phonics screening and the SPaG have no sound pedagogical basis?

Is it that the first draft of the new history curriculum, contained a programme of study so jammed packed it would have been virtually impossible to deliver, and seemed a rose tinted wander through a colonial fantasy?

Is it that Gove has called experienced teachers who disagreed with his reforms to pay and pensions: 'A Marxist blob'?

Is it Gove's ignorance of pedagogy and disrespect for educational academics in general?

Is it that Gove and those who support him speak about hard and soft subjects like a Freudian wet dream?

Is it that Govespeak has polluted the educational debate to such an extent that one only needs to mention a word like 'rigour' or 'knowledge', to become aligned with an ideology so misguided that the true meaning of education, like a tree uprooted, is lost in a semantic tsunami?

Is it that we, the teachers, struggle every day to provide a rounded education for our pupils, whilst working in a system which is judging not only our students, but ourselves, by a baffling array of numbers, neatly arranged on spreadsheets often signifying little of worth?

Or is it that ...

We teachers that despise all Gove stands for are not:

Smug, careerist politicians, but actually people with a vocation, working in environments which he is making more and more difficult to be in.

heymisssmith