

IMPACT: Philosophical Perspectives on Education Policy

NEWS/ Forthcoming Events:

**Seminar and wine reception to mark the launch of IMPACT No. 19:
'Patriotism in Schools' by Michael Hand**

When: Tuesday 6th December, 6pm to 8pm

Where: Institute for Government, Carlton Gardens, London SW1Y 5AA

Join us for the seminar and discussion with:

Michael Hand, Institute of Education

David Goodhart, Director, Demos

Phillip Blond, Director, ResPublica

Sunder Katwala, Director, British Future

Louise Bamfield, Editor, IMPACT (Chair)

About Patriotism in Schools

Is 'love of country' a defensible aim of education? Is it right for politicians to charge schools with delivering a patriotic citizenry?

Remarking on the curious lack of engagement between defenders and opponents of patriotic education, Hand argues that the explicit teaching of patriotism in schools cannot be defended on rational grounds - and so should not be actively promoted but rather taught as a controversial issue in the curriculum.

Treating patriotism as a form of emotional education, he argues that while the rational cultivation of the emotions is a proper province of school education, teaching love of country is a controversial matter, which should only be taught as such. Schools should not promote patriotism unless it can be unequivocally shown to be worthwhile.

In the face of rising concerns about diversity, identity, belonging and social cohesion, and with the second phase of the National Curriculum Review scheduled to begin in early 2012, the seminar will be a timely opportunity to consider the essential requirements for the education of future citizens.

To join us for the seminar & wine reception, please **RSVP** to Steph Graham at pesgb@sasevents.co.uk or **01722 339811**.