



## Great Schools campaign

We are in the middle of the UK's biggest investment in school buildings since Victorian times, so it's important to get it right; we want to shape and influence government policy in the design and building of future schools across the UK and beyond. The British Council for School Environments' Great Schools campaign aims to create a national debate about great schools and explore the role that schools and learning environments play in tackling social inequality and improving the life chances of children and young people.

There is an inevitable focus on the design and structure of our schools and, in the light of major school funding programmes, the cost of our school buildings. That focus is appropriate. But we should also be looking at the broader contribution school buildings make to the society we live in. The debate shouldn't finish when the funding is agreed; that's when the debate should start. Every community deserves, and should have, a great school.

Campaign highlights include:

- **Great Schools Inquiry** – chaired by Baroness Estelle Morris it will investigate the role that schools and learning environments play in improving outcomes for young people and tackling social inequality (March to December 2009)
- **Holland schools study tour** – what's happening abroad, and what we can learn from other countries (April 2009).
- **BCSE Industry Awards** – highlighting the very best in design and construction of schools from around the UK and internationally (June 2009).
- **National School Environments Week** – a host of events and activities that celebrate great schools including the Industry Awards dinner, Future schools debate and Great Schools Friday – (19-26 June 2009).
- **Building Great Schools Summit** - a major conference and event held in Knowsley showcasing best practice in learning environments from the UK and around the world (November 2009).

There will be a range of other exciting and inspiring events, programmes and initiatives as part of the umbrella campaign, including the new Young School Design Scholarship which aims to recognise the children and young people who make the most significant design contribution to the design of their learning environment.

### Get involved

To get involved as a supporter or partner to the Campaign visit our website [www.bcse.uk.net/greatschools](http://www.bcse.uk.net/greatschools), or contact Ian Fordham, Deputy Chief Executive of the BCSE at [ian@bcse.uk.net](mailto:ian@bcse.uk.net).





**BCSE** British Council for School Environments

## Great Schools Inquiry

How can we work together to create Great Schools for every community?

The British Council for School Environments (BCSE) is organising a major Inquiry into the role that schools and learning environments play in improving the life chances of children and young people and tackling social inequality.

The Great Schools Inquiry is an independent, evidence based investigation that will feed directly into practice on the ground and into national policy development. It enables those who are leading, managing and benefiting from capital programmes, across the UK to share best practice and to shape the future direction of this important agenda. This includes architects, contractors, designers, suppliers, local authorities, teachers, parents and young people. The overall aim of the Inquiry, which is the centrepiece of the BCSE Great Schools Campaign, is to ensure that the unprecedented investment in school buildings achieves the goal of creating great schools for every community.

Chaired by Baroness Estelle Morris, the former Secretary of State for Education, the Inquiry will explore and establish the elements of what makes a great school for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, structured around the following thematic areas:

- **teaching and learning**
- **design and construction**
- **sustainability**
- **health and well being**
- **communities**

### Structure

The Inquiry will be based around a national **call for evidence** between March and June 2009 from people and organisations across the school design and construction sector. There will be a one day event called the Big Conversation in April 2009 aimed at gathering evidence from BCSE members, and five seminars held in May and June 2009 that will bring together an invited group of government representatives, industry experts, practitioners and schools to share their insights into the five thematic areas of the Inquiry.

The Inquiry will also gather evidence from a series of witness sessions with thought leaders from the UK and internationally and, through the use of video and web based technology, will seek the views of children and young people about what makes a great school. The Chair of the Inquiry will convene a Commission to review the evidence from September to October 2009 and the resulting report will be published in December 2009.

### Get involved

To get involved, visit our website [www.bcse.uk.net/greatschools](http://www.bcse.uk.net/greatschools), log on and contribute your views and evidence. You can also play an active role as a supporter or partner to the Inquiry and Campaign by contacting Ian Fordham, Deputy Chief Executive of the BCSE at [ian@bcse.uk.net](mailto:ian@bcse.uk.net).



Working together  
to create Great Schools  
for every community