



GREAT LEADERS MAKE GREAT SCHOOLS
GREAT SCHOOLS CHANGE LIVES

1700 FEMALE HEADTEACHERS 'MISSING' FROM ENGLAND'S SCHOOLS

For immediate release

Government statistics show that women headteachers are under-represented in our schools. Across all English state schools, 74% of teachers are women but only 65% of heads are female. If these percentages were equal there would over 1700 more female heads, potentially seeing them fill many long-standing headship vacancies.

This weekend (Saturday 7 February) a conference organised by The Future Leaders Trust and Women into School Headship (Wish) will look at why it is harder for women to become headteachers, and offer career advice to aspiring female heads.

Kate Chhatwal from The Future Leaders Trust said: "Women heads can face discriminatory attitudes from governors who are expecting to employ a middle-aged man but they can also self-deselect. Those with young children often feel the job of a headteacher is incompatible with their family life or they may lack the necessary confidence."

The event's programme also includes Baroness Sally Morgan, Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Future Leaders Trust and former Chair of Ofsted. She said: "Organisations should be led by the best people and it's a waste of talent to have exceptional women working beneath their full potential. Too many challenging schools struggle to recruit a headteacher and this event will encourage more women to step forward confidently to play a part in improving our education system."

The Future Leaders Trust supports and trains aspiring headteachers. It works with heads who are mothers of young children and have led their schools to recent success, including Oli Tomlinson, Principal of Paddington Academy, and Liz Robinson, Headteacher of Surrey Square Primary School.

Oli has a 4 year old daughter and has been fully supported by her academy trust United Learning and her governors in being able to do a four day working week. The academy has seen excellent results with 83% of students achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs including English and maths in 2014.

Liz Robinson has been the head of Surrey Square Primary School for 9 years, and shares the role with a 'co-head'. Liz has two daughters, aged 3 and 1, and works a 4-day week. She is a National Leader of Education and works extensively beyond her own school. Surrey Square serves a socially deprived community and is noted for its excellence in meeting both academic and pastoral needs.

Kate Chhatwal sums it up: "Every child deserves to benefit from the skills that an exceptional headteacher brings to a school. Today is about making sure that more talented women are confident in putting themselves forward to take on this important role."

To speak to Kate, Sally, Oli or Liz contact Matt Crowder matthew.crowder@future-leaders.org.uk / 020 3116 6386 / 07984 083 441

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Notes to editors

According to recent government figures about all English state schools, 26% of the workforce are male (118,100) and 74% are female (330,000). Looking at headteachers, 35% are male (7,300) and 65% are female (13,800).

If headships reflected the workforce then 74% of heads would be female and there would be 1,739 more female heads. This is an ongoing issue; statistics from 2010 show a very similar picture.

In primary schools, 15% of the workforce are male (30,500) and 85% are female (178,600). But looking at headteachers, 28% are male (4,600) and 71% are female (11,700).

In secondary schools, 38% of the work force are male (80,300) and 62% are female (131,000). But looking at headteachers, 64% are male (2,100) and 36% are female (1,200).

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/341985/SFR11_2014_Final_Tables.xlsx

The Future Leaders Trust is an education charity that believes excellent school leaders can transform challenging schools and outcomes for disadvantaged children. Its mission is to raise the achievement of children, regardless of background, and to provide them with equal choices and opportunities in life.

Through the Future Leaders programme, The Future Leaders Trust develops teachers to take up headship roles in challenging schools and improve life chances for disadvantaged students.

There are 376 Future Leaders working in more than 250 challenging primary and secondary schools across England, impacting over 200,000 students. This year we will recruit over 100 new participants onto the Future Leaders programme. **Fifty two percent of Future Leaders are women.**

Baroness (Sally) Morgan of Huyton is Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Future Leaders Trust. She also works as adviser to the Board of the charity, Ark. She is a non-executive director of both Carphone Warehouse and Southern Cross Healthcare. Sally also sat on the board of the Olympic Delivery Authority.

As a member of the House of Lords since 2001, her particular interests are public services and, as a former Minister for Women, equality issues. Sally worked for Tony Blair from 1995 and then in No10 Downing Street as Director of Government Relations until May 2005. Sally started her career as a secondary school teacher.

Kate Chhatwal - Chief Programme Officer (CPO) - joined The Future Leaders Trust in June 2013. Prior to this, she worked in the Department for Education for 11 years in a variety of roles including work on the 14-19 curriculum and qualifications, school improvement and Academy funding policy.

Kate led the implementation of the National Challenge programme, aimed at reducing the number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieved five A*-C grade GCSEs. Kate also has a PhD in education policy from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.