

Real cultures of mutual respect/equality in Quaker schools?

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Research carried out in five Quaker schools in England will set the scene for this workshop. The research revealed a strong relationship between students' sense of mutual respect, inclusiveness and the valuing of equality. Findings showed how the Quaker practice of *Meeting for Worship* was important to students' sense that these things were lived-out in their school and not merely aspirations. Furthermore, students who reported studying without being told to and taking more interest in their subjects were the ones who were more likely to see their schools as places characterised by friendliness and mutual respect.

Whatever the educational context, how equality and the rights of the individual are held in balance is important to consider in relation to student learning. Some of the questions we will consider and explore in the workshop include:

- How can teachers encourage inclusiveness and mutual respect within their classrooms?
- What undermines trust in the principle of equality within an educational environment?
- Why might there be a relationship between sense of equality and educational engagement?

Dr Nigel Newton is currently working on a project at WISERD, Cardiff University looking at the impact of curriculum reform in Wales on children from disadvantaged backgrounds. His research areas have included work on graduate employees, student course choice, formative assessment and school culture. He has also provided teacher training in relation to student leadership, learning motivation and employability skills. Nigel's PhD explored the relationship between school culture and students' educational engagement. Previously, he taught English, Classical Civilisation & World Development mainly in Further Education.