



IDPE's response to the current political uncertainty

Over the past two weeks you will have seen plenty of media coverage around the Labour Party Conference decision to endorse a policy of integrating independent schools into the state sector. Subsequent to the [original motion](#) there has been a raft of commentary and opinion pieces representing both sides, and changes in stance from senior Labour Party officials.

As IDPE members, you will know that our vision is to enable all schools to develop cultures of community engagement and philanthropic support, so that you can provide the best educational experience for children and young people. We strongly believe that our sector can be a force for positive change, and we will continue to work on your behalf to enable you to transform young people's lives.

What is IDPE doing?

The situation is clearly fluid and, as such, IDPE is working closely with our colleagues at the Independent Schools' Council (ISC), Independent School Bursars' Association (ISBA), Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) and other associations, to understand the situation and provide advice and guidance. We also welcome David Goodhew, Head of Latymer Upper School, and Philip Britton, Headmaster of Bolton School, to the IDPE Board of Trustees, to provide support and guidance on how we can work more closely with senior leaders to integrate development best practice into schools and demonstrate the value of the sector.

IDPE will shortly be launching our fourth benchmarking report, which will once more demonstrate the impact of successful schools' fundraising and engagement programmes across the UK. The latest report evidences a shift in focus across the sector, with bursaries to improve access to independent education for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, now the undisputed centre of fundraising programmes.

What can your school do?

For now, IDPE member schools can work with other ISC schools to write to local MPs to highlight concerns about the proposed Labour policy. For more information and a template letter, [visit the ISC website](#) or [contact Matthew Dent](#), ISC's public affairs officer.

We recommend that you continue to reassure any worried donors or alumni, that IDPE is working on your behalf to collaborate across the sector to influence government decisions and that when policy becomes clearer, we will provide best-practice advice and guidance to you.



Please do not hesitate to [contact IDPE](#) if you wish to discuss your concerns further, but in the meantime, please rest assured that we will continue to advocate on your behalf and to share the value of development in transforming young people's lives.