



Saturday, 18th March 2023

Dear OfSTED,

We, a group of headteachers from across the country, are writing to express our deep concern regarding the high accountability culture that you perpetuate. This culture has led to a toxic environment where the pressure to perform at a high level is overwhelming and has had serious consequences on the wellbeing of school leaders.

As you may be aware, one of our colleagues recently took her own life, and we believe that this tragedy was in part a result of the unrelenting demands placed on them by your organization. We cannot allow this to happen again.

We understand the importance of accountability in ensuring that our schools provide the best possible education for our pupils. However, we feel that the current system is overly punitive and focused on box-ticking rather than supporting and developing schools.

The current culture of fear and blame is driving talented school leaders away from the profession and discouraging new entrants. This is having a detrimental effect on the quality of education in our schools and, ultimately, on the life chances of our pupils.

We are calling for a change in the culture of accountability to one that is supportive and collaborative. We need a system that recognizes the complexities of school leadership and the importance of wellbeing and retention. We believe that this change will not only improve the lives of school leaders but also the quality of education in our schools.

We urge you to take action now to address the culture of fear and blame that pervades the current accountability system. We need a system that is fair, transparent, and focused on supporting and developing schools, rather than punishing them. We need a system that values the work that school leaders do and recognizes the importance of their wellbeing.

We would be happy to discuss our concerns further and work with you to develop a more supportive and collaborative approach to accountability.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of

The Members of Education Roundtables
