

States of Mind - Breaking the Silence

Phase 3 (2020/21) involved a cohort of young people spending an entire school year meeting once weekly to study the current Ofsted framework and co-construct something more appropriate. They read national and international research (including some of the studies cited on our website) around education evaluation. Young people composed research questions, interviewed Headteachers, academics and ex-inspectors (Ofsted declined to be interviewed) and ran focus groups with teachers and students. Hence, they critiqued the Ofsted framework, engaged with academic research, co-constructed a documentary ("[The Framework Documentary on Vimeo](#)") and ultimately drafted an alternative school evaluation framework called the 'Review for Progress and Development'. Phase 3 was covered in a Guardian article by Fiona Millar -

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/jun/29/inspecting-the-inspectors-students-assess-ofsted-regimes-toll-on-wellbeing>

Phase 4 was completed in the summer of 2022. Another group of students worked with States of Mind practitioners, teachers and peers to develop an understanding of phases 1-3. Subsequently, they built on the work conducted by previous students to refine the Review for Progress and Development (RPD) - [DRAFT Review for Progress and Development May 22.docx - Google Docs](#). Based on their own research, again involving reading numerous studies and conducting focus groups with students and teachers, six evaluative areas emerged:

- 1 Student mental health,
- 2 Student-teacher relationships,
- 3 Student interactions,
- 4 Teacher autonomy,
- 5 Student satisfaction,
- 6 Life skills,
- 7 Personal development.

The RPD (pages 3 and 4) suggests schools should self-evaluate alongside partner schools, the removal of grades and the need to create a rich narrative by conducting yearly focus groups and questionnaires with students and teachers to review, reflect and improve practice. The RPD is an authentic alternative to Ofsted that has been co-constructed by young people, teachers, students, psychologists and academics. See the young people presenting their

findings at a conference here - [3rd July 2021 | States of Mind \(educationfuturesinaction.com\)](https://educationfuturesinaction.com/2021/07/03/3rd-July-2021-States-of-Mind/).

They can speak about school evaluation with authority and eloquence.

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