

Rob Isaac MSc, MBCS CEd FRSA RWLG

Strategic Education Adviser at Aspiring Schools Group

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Summary: Rob Isaac is founder and strategic education adviser at the Aspiring Schools Group. He was formerly chief academic officer for Arcadia Education in Dubai in a year-long process. He has led the improvement of teaching and leadership to at least good, with a significant proportion being very good or outstanding.

Rob has a proven track record in international school consultancy and inspection allied recently to experience in senior management and governance in Dubai.

Rob has worked in school inspections and advisory positions for DSIB, ADEC, Ofsted and Estyn for 22 years in over 500 schools. He is fully qualified as a current teacher in Wales with the Education Workforce Wales (equivalent to the General Teaching Council in England) and holds a Master's Degree from Cardiff University in Artificial Intelligence.

Rob's specialisms and strengths fit what is needed and include:

1. The UK Curricula, inc. the National Curriculum
2. Quality Assurance management e.g. of colleagues' work in schools and of report writing.
3. Extensive experience, knowledge & understanding of the primary and secondary phases.
4. English Language (excellent) including English literature and Drama.
5. ICT and Computer Science, inc. Artificial Intelligence (from Foundation Stage to Sixth Form)
6. Many aspects of Innovation which I have introduced to Dubai schools.
7. Experience of leading innovatory practice in teaching more able, gifted and talented children.

Rob has a close and extensive experience of external inspection and quality assurance in the UK, the UAE, including Dubai and Ras al Khaimah, Malta and Saudi Arabia.

Rob has been a head of drama, head of ICT and head of education (in an open prison). He has tutored secondary phase pupils in A level, GCSE and KS3 English literature in Wales in 2017-18. He taught A level computer science at Coleg Gwent in 2017-18. Rob has led many school improvement reviews for Ormiston Academies Trust and in independent schools. Rob has also been an Ofsted & Estyn leading inspector of primary and secondary schools for many years. He has quality assured the work of colleagues including teacher-trainers and advisers and been involved in strategic school improvement for 23 years. This has involved leadership of hundreds of inspection teams, each including between 3 and 12 colleagues.

Rob provides ongoing support as adviser for academies including those which are excellent or are in special measures. Rob is an experienced inspector of provision for additional learning needs or SEND, including children who are gifted or talented.

Achievements and life-cycle projects: Rob worked from 2012-14 as the Welsh Associate Adviser, Mentor, Trainer and Peer Reviewer for the Welsh Assembly Project to Counter the Under-achievement of Boys (CUBS). He wrote and delivered a series of literacy/ICT courses to 200 schools and over 1,000 advisers, head teachers, governors, teachers and teaching assistants across Wales. Rob also assisted in classroom-based action research and analysis for CUBS with teachers and advisers in many schools across Wales.

Rob has led (or been a team member) in inspections or reviews of over 500 primary and secondary schools and academies, maintained and independent, across England and Wales. His specialist areas are English, Drama, ICT, RE and SEND. Rob also evaluates the quality of teaching, standards, leadership, management and spiritual development. This covers the provision for those areas from EYFS through KS2/ KS3/ KS4 to sixth form.

Work Experience: Rob's teaching experience since 1975 until 2018 includes leadership and teaching in comprehensive schools, independent schools and headship of education in an open prison. He has also been a programmer and systems analyst in the civil service for three years. This led on to an MSc in Artificial Intelligence at the University of Wales. Rob has extensive experience in inspection & consultancy in a wide range of schools in the Mediterranean and Middle East. These schools included those with an Indian, Japanese, Arabic and/or Islamic context. They also included children from Kindergarten to 6th Form. Rob also reviews UK schools for their faith provision and spiritual development. These have included Catholic, Anglican, Jewish and Muslim schools.

Rob Isaac is a foundation governor, former chairman and vice chair at a large primary school in Wales, a newly combined school of 600 pupils for 12 years.

Referees:

Mr Tony Kemp, Principal Inspector, DSIB, Dubai, UAE

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Mr John Milne, Director of External Relations at Clifton College, Bristol, United Kingdom

(formerly Head of Clifton Preparatory School)

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