

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg joins Twinkl to tackle teacher workload

Today (Friday 14th November 2014) Sheffield based Educational Publisher, Twinkl (www.twinkl.co.uk), a leading provider of digital teaching materials for education, hosted a discussion with Deputy Prime Minister and Sheffield MP, Nick Clegg, and local teachers aimed at finding ways to reduce teacher's workload.

Last month Nick Clegg MP outlined concerns on how unnecessary administrative and bureaucratic tasks are leading to teachers working 50 hours a week or more. He has launched a Department for Education consultation called the 'Workload Challenge', which aims to give teachers the chance to suggest what pointless processes and paperwork should be scrapped.

Twinkl has been operating since 2010, and with over 700,000 registered users, most of whom are UK teachers, has a unique insight into the working lives of teachers. Twinkl has seen their website traffic and userbase soar, with more and more demand for high-quality teaching resources that teachers no longer have time to make themselves.

Jonathan Seaton, CEO of Twinkl, said:

"Our business saves our teachers up to 2 hours of preparation time each day by providing high quality and time-saving teaching materials, which enables school staff to focus on teaching our children. We welcome our local MP Nick Clegg's visit today as a key step towards tackling teacher workload and removing unnecessary burdens."

Nick Clegg MP, said:

"Anyone who has a misguided impression that teaching is a career built on short days and long holidays is simply wrong. Talk to a teacher and they'll tell you about their working week of 50 hours or more.

"They'll also tell you how much of this time they feel is wasted on unnecessary processes, box-ticking and form-filling. That's hours spent struggling to stay on top



of piles of incident reports, over-detailed lesson plan templates, health and safety forms, departmental updates and training requests that threaten to engulf them every week.

"Clearly some administrative work is unavoidable, but it is time to stop this runaway train of bureaucracy in its tracks and reduce the burden. The consultation is aimed at giving our teachers more time to do what they do best - creating and planning the best possible lessons and experiences for our children".

People can take part in the 'Workload Challenge' survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Workloadchallenge. The consultation runs until 21st November 2014. The aim is to put the best ideas into action early next year.