

Mel Ainscow is Professor of Education and co-director of the Centre for Equity in Education at the University of Manchester. He is also the Government's Chief Adviser for the Greater Manchester Challenge, a 50 million pound initiative to improve educational outcomes for all young people in the region. Previously a head teacher, local education authority inspector and lecturer at the University of Cambridge, Mel's work attempts to explore connections between inclusion, teacher development and school improvement. A particular feature of this research involves the development and use of participatory methods of inquiry that set out to make a direct impact on thinking and practice in systems, schools and classrooms. Mel is consultant to UNESCO, UNICEF and Save the Children; and is Marden Visiting Professor at the Hong Kong Institute of Education. He had two new books published in 2006: 'Improving Urban Schools: Leadership and Collaboration' (with Mel West, Open University Press) and 'Improving Schools, Developing Inclusion' (with Tony Booth, Alan Dyson and colleagues, Routledge).