SSAT | inquire
inspire
innovate
impact

Speaker profile

Barry Carpenter – International Education Consultant

Barry Carpenter is Honorary Professor at universities in the UK, Ireland, Germany and Australia. He has been a Fellow of the University of Oxford. In a career spanning more than 30 years, Barry has held the leadership positions of Academic Director, Chief Executive, Principal, Inspector of Schools and Director of the Centre for Special Education at Westminster College, Oxford.

In 2009, he was appointed by the Secretary of State for Education as Director of the Children with Complex Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Research Project. Since completing that research, Barry has overseen the development of a national project developing online 'Training materials for teachers of children with severe, profound and complex learning disabilities'.

He is the author of over 150 articles and many texts on a range of learning disability/special needs topics .In the last 12 months, his work has been translated into German, French, Dutch and Russian. His most recent publications (with Carolyn Blackburn and Jo Egerton) focus on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). March 2015 has seen the publication of a book on Children with Complex Needs, and also marks the 30th year since Barry's first article was published.

Barry lectures nationally and internationally. In recent years this has included China, Japan, Abu Dhabi, Norway, Portugal, and most recently in Germany, Ireland, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. He is the co-founder of the National Forum for Neuroscience in Special Education. For the Mental Health Foundation he chaired the National Inquiry into the Mental Health of Young People with Learning Disabilities.

Barry has been awarded Fellowships of the Royal Societies of Arts and Medicine. He was created OBE by the Queen for services to children with Special Needs.

Barry has three children – one is a School Vice-Principal, one an Occupational Therapist, and a daughter with Down's syndrome, now living independently in a home of her own.