

How to make research informed teaching practice a reality

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28 June 2019

Although there is now a recognition that academic educational research can and should be used to improve practice there is only limited evidence on how this might be facilitated at the school level (Graves and Moore, 2017). Furthermore, a systemic gap appears to exist between research and practitioners which as yet shows little indication of narrowing (Coldwell et al.,2017; Graves and Moore, 2017; Whitty and Wisby, 2017). As a result this leaves only sporadic instances of evidence-informed teaching occurring within and across schools; with other factors such as intuition and experience instead solely driving much of the decision-making undertaken by teachers (Vanlommel et al.,2017). A key question therefore is what can we do to achieve evidence-informed teaching at scale? To address this question, this lecture will present understanding and ideas for how best to close research to practice gap (Graves and Moore, 2017) as well as present case studies of successful initiatives in this area, including the notion of Research Learning Networks (Brown, 2017).