



Hugo Besterman

Mediation experience

Having spent 15 years as a teacher in a number of different types of school, Hugo has dedicated his career to helping staff, pupils and parents foster constructive relationships. It is the highly rewarding experience of resolving disputes in this context that led to his decision to become a mediator. Hugo specialises in mediating any education-based issues, including those involving SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability). He is also happy to support in wider areas; he has experience in helping to resolve a broad range of civil, commercial and work-place disputes.

“...when presented with significant challenges, Hugo has proved that he can bring people together, to effect positive change for the greater good.”

“On a personal note, I am most grateful for all that Hugo did to support the transformation of our situation – thanks to him, the outcome of the mediation was more positive than anything we could have imagined.”

“Thank you so much for your help today, Hugo. My primary aim was to resolve the conflict with my colleague in the easiest possible way. I think this is a small price to pay in return for a restored working relationship with someone I have enjoyed many a laugh with. I am sure you were pleased to see evidence of a return to normality in the conversation between us, even as you were writing things up at the end of the mediation.”

Professional experience

Hugo is well-placed to help resolve disputes in schools and more widely. Having worked for senior management and in prominent leadership posts, he has a good understanding of the way in which the education sector operates. Furthermore, as an experienced boarding housemaster, he has been *in loco parentis* for up to 90 teenagers and knows the importance of finding a positive compromise between the families in his care and the schools for which he has worked.

In addition to his work as a mediator, Hugo is a senior education consultant. He supports schools in appointing headteachers and provides strategic advice for their development plans.

Other information

A scholar of Cambridge University, Hugo is passionate about education in the broadest sense. When not working in education Hugo is both a keen musician and sportsman. He and his wife have three children.