

Dr Ruth Silver CBE
Principal and Chief Executive, Lewisham College

Ruth Silver studied Psychology and Literature at Glasgow and Southampton Universities as an NUM scholar, trained at the Tavistock Institute for Human Relations in Adolescence and Transition and is a qualified, experienced teacher. Her employment has spanned service in child guidance, in teaching and inspection, and service at the DES and DE (MSC) developing national education policy on personal effectiveness in young people.

Ruth has worked in senior management in further education for fifteen years and is currently Principal of Lewisham College, in London. She holds a number of national posts linked to learning in further education, has written and broadcast extensively on educational matters and is committed to Inclusiveness, particularly in the inner city.

Ruth's work with Government includes:

- Advising the Education Select Committee in the House of Commons on Further Education matters.
- Member of the Strategic Skills Commission, to oversee the strategy of the National Skills Forum.
- Member of the Associate Parliamentary Skills Group (sister organisation to the National Skills Forum)
- Acting as a scrutineer to the Cabinet Office's Ministerial Network on Social Exclusion.
- Membership of the Skills Advisory Board, National Employment Panel.
- Commissioner on the Downing Street Women and Work Commission
- Membership of the Post 16 Leadership College Advisory Board
- Membership of the E-Learning Task Force

Ruth Silver holds the following awards and positions:

- Visiting scholar at the Centre for Women Leaders at Lucy Cavendish College Cambridge where she explored 'Language and the Leadership of Thinking in organisations'.
- Chair of the launch of the Labour Party Manifesto on Education with Tony Blair, David Blunkett and Baroness Blackstone during the last election campaign.
- A CBE in the New Year's Peoples' Honours in 1998 for services to Further Education. For Ruth it means 'completely believes in education'.
- An Honorary Doctorate of Science in the Social Sciences by the University of Southampton in 2001.
- A Fellowship from City and Guilds (FCGI) received in 2003.
- Councillor on the City and Guilds Council from June 2005
- Visiting Professor of Educational Development in the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences at London Southbank University from January 2004.