# Contents

Notes on Contributors vii

**Introduction**
*Richard Smith* 1

1 The Role of Policy in Philosophy of Education: An Argument and an Illustration  
*John White* 5

2 Alluring Ideas: Cherry Picking Policy from Around the World  
*Carrie Winstanley* 18

3 ‘The Only Answer is Innovation . . .’: Europe, Policy and the Big Society  
*Naomi Hodgson* 34

4 A New Dawn for Faith-Based Education? Opportunities for Religious Organisations in the UK’s New School System  
*Michael Hand* 47

5 A Monstrous Regimen of Synthetic Phonics: Fantasies of Research-Based Teaching ‘Methods’ versus Real Teaching  
*Andrew Davis* 60

6 The Future of Teacher Education  
*Alis Oancea and Janet Orchard* 74

7 Two Concepts of Assessment  
*Gerard Lum* 89

8 Vocational and Civic Education: Whither British Policy?  
*Christopher Winch* 103

9 Education under the Heel of Caesar: Reading UK Higher Education Reform through Shakespeare’s *Antony and Cleopatra*  
*Sophie Ward* 118

10 Improving the Student Experience  
*Elizabeth Staddon and Paul Standish* 129

11 University Futures  
*Richard Smith* 147

12 What Lessons Can We Learn?  
*W. A. Hart* 160

Index 170