

## POLICY BRIEF

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

03 March 2021



***The information within this Brief is correct at the time of approval for publication and contains relevant announcements made by Government and its departments and regulators since the last ECSC Scrutiny committee on 06 January 2021.***

### Consultations and Calls for Evidence

#### High needs national funding formula: proposed changes

##### **Closes: 24.03.21**

The Department for Education has announced further funding of £42m to improve services and provide support to disadvantaged families and children with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

On Wednesday 10 February, the Government announced it will re-award current contracts and grants which enable schools, colleges, families and local authorities, to support thousands of children with SEND. This includes extending an advice helpline and increased funding for local parent carer forums, support to improve how councils provide local services and improved training for education staff in working with children and young people with specific needs such as autism.

The Department has launched a [consultation](#) with proposed changes to the funding formula that will calculate allocations of high needs funding in 2022-23, to ensure funding is directed where it is needed most.

#### Launch of the Get Help Buying for Schools service

##### **Closes: 11.03.21**

The DfE is seeking views, comments and concerns on their Get Help Buying for Schools service delivery model for schools to buy goods and services. Responses will be used to help shape the chosen model and future developments for the service.

The Get Help Buying for Schools service is for buyers and other buying decision-makers in schools. They can use the service to access to specialist support, information and tools to buy goods and services.

#### Introducing international qualified teacher status (iQTS)

##### **Closes: 03.05.21**

The DfE will use responses to ensure this qualification gives teachers the opportunity to:

- train to high-quality, English standards worldwide
- provide more opportunities for English teacher training providers to expand into the international teacher training market.

This new qualification, based on English standards and training methods, will seek to:

- provide new and growing opportunities for English-style teacher training overseas
- meet global demand for high-quality education for teachers.

#### Ofsted launches point-in-time surveys

Ofsted has sent surveys to social care providers to find out about the experiences of the children, parents, staff and professionals involved. Ofsted has launched their annual point in time surveys for 2021 – **children, parents, staff and professionals can have their say until 28 March 2021.**

| Date of publication                                                               | Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| Full range of guidance that has been updated to reflect latest government changes | <p>All relevant guidance documents relating to schools, early years and childcare providers, further education and colleges and Children's Social Care providers were updated to reflect the 05 January lockdown restrictions. Additional updates have also been made to the following to reflect changing requirements during lockdown;</p> <p><a href="#">Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</a></p> <p><a href="#">Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak</a></p> <p><a href="#">What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</a></p> <p><a href="#">Guidance for full opening: special schools and other specialist settings</a></p> <p><a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for children's social care services</a></p> <p><a href="#">Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak</a></p> |
| Published 07 January 2021                                                         | <p><a href="#">Give schools extra money to let pupils retake school year</a></p> <p>The Education Secretary should put extra funding in place to let pupils re-sit this school year, says the Social Mobility Commission. In a statement, the commission outlined its concerns over contingency plans for pupils affected by the global COVID pandemic.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Updates between 07 January and 03 February 2021 include:                          | <p><a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): financial support for education, early years and children's social care</a></p> <p>Updated guidance on supply teachers and other contingent workers in state-funded schools. Removed outdated sector specific guidance for early years providers and to reflect detail on public and private income from school-based nursery provision for mainstream state-funded schools. Added note to the section on supply teachers and other contingent workers in state-funded schools to make it clear that it is out of date and the procurement notices mentioned are no longer in effect. Updated to reflect the extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) to 30 April 2021.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Updates between 08 January and 04 February 2021 include:                          | <p><a href="#">Providing school meals during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak</a></p> <p>Guidance for schools and local authorities on school meals arrangements during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.</p> <p>Guidance includes information on the support available to schools during the national lockdown. Information about supplier relief payments and changes to the period the support covers. Information about how to order vouchers, sending eCodes to families, supermarkets and redeeming the vouchers. Added Farmfoods to the list of supermarkets available and updated information on how to order vouchers.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| <p>Published 12 January 2021</p> | <p><a href="#">Hundreds of thousands more laptops to support disadvantaged pupils learn at home</a></p> <p>On the 12 January the government announced a further 300,000 laptops and tablets to help disadvantaged children and young people learn at home.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p>Published 12 January 2021</p> | <p><a href="#">Responsibility for exams</a></p> <p>Guidance for schools and colleges on who should enter students for exams, the health arrangements for exams and the support DfE is providing. Updated public health guidance to support exams from January 2021 to reflect that schools and colleges can continue with vocational and technical exams, where they judge it right to do so. This includes updates to the sections on the set up of the exam room, face coverings, maintaining distance between staff and candidates and where a candidate has a negative test.</p> <p>The most recent update on 09 February has added information to 'Public health guidance to support exams from January 2021' about scheduled assessments in February and March.</p>                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <p>Published 13 January 2021</p> | <p><a href="#">£135m boost to support T Level students to succeed</a></p> <p>A multi-million pound fund has been launched aimed at making sure young people studying pioneering new T Level qualifications from 2022 have access to world class facilities and equipment. T Level providers across the country can bid for a share of £135 million, through the <a href="#">T Level Capital Fund</a>, to upgrade classrooms and buildings in readiness for students starting courses in September 2022.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p>Published 15 January 2021</p> | <p><a href="#">Education Secretary launches review of children's social care</a></p> <p>The Department for Education and Education Secretary Gavin Williamson have launched an independent review of children's social care, which sets out to radically reform the system and deliver on the 2019 manifesto commitment to ensure children and young adults get the support they need.</p> <p>The Education Secretary has appointed Josh MacAlister to lead the review. Mr MacAlister founded the social work charity <a href="#">Frontline</a> in 2013 and will step down from his role as Chief Executive to lead the review.</p> <p>The Department for Education has published <a href="#">terms of reference</a> for the review, setting out the themes and questions that will be addressed and how it will respond to the changing needs of children in care or at risk of going into care, especially given the impact of the pandemic.</p> |
| <p>Published 21 January 2021</p> | <p><a href="#">Response to an IICSA report on the sexual abuse of children outside the UK</a></p> <p>Government response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) Report into the protection of children outside the United Kingdom, phase 2. The Government is committed to protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation, not just in the UK, but across the world. Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a borderless crime. Offenders are increasingly targeting children in other countries, including by travelling abroad to abuse them. The</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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| Published 22 January 2021                                   | <p>Government is very grateful to the Inquiry for its Children Outside the UK report and the insight it provides.</p> <p><a href="#">The Home Secretary has published a first-of-its-kind national strategy to protect children from all forms of child sexual abuse.</a></p> <p>The Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy sets out how the Government will use new legislation and enhanced technology to stop offenders in their tracks. This includes investing in the UK's world-leading Child Abuse Image Database to identify and catch more offenders quicker – for example, by using new tools to speed up police investigations and protecting officers' wellbeing by avoiding them being repeatedly exposed to indecent images. The Home Office will make it easier for parents and carers to ask the police if someone has a criminal record for child sexual offences as the department commits to a review of Sarah's Law.</p> |
| Published 27 January 2021                                   | <p><a href="#">Education attendance restrictions to remain in place</a></p> <p>The Prime Minister confirmed that schools and colleges will not return to full face-to-face education after the February half-term and that the current attendance restrictions will remain in place until 08 March at the earliest.</p> <p>The government has committed to providing a programme of catch up into the next financial year, involving a further £300m of new money to early years, schools and colleges for tutoring, as well as working in collaboration with the education sector to develop specific initiatives for summer schools and a Covid premium to support catch up.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Published 29 January 2021<br><br>Published 02 February 2021 | <p><a href="#">Mass asymptomatic testing: schools and colleges</a></p> <p>Guidance on how to administer testing which began in January 2021. Updated added about reporting delivery and test issues using the form, and contacting the helpline for the link which has been shared with schools and colleges to access guidance and support materials.</p> <p><a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in schools and colleges: grant funding</a></p> <p>Conditions of grant funding for the national roll-out of rapid mass testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) in schools and colleges.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Published 01 February 2021                                  | <p><a href="#">Admission appeals for school places</a></p> <p>These guides will help admission authorities advise those involved with school admission appeals to understand their roles and responsibilities. The guidance has been updated as the temporary amendments to the admission appeals regulations, which were introduced due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, have been extended until 30 September 2021.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Published 03 February 2021                                  | <p><a href="#">New Commissioner appointed to oversee education catch-up</a></p> <p>Prime Minister and the Education Secretary appoint Sir Kevan Collins as Education Recovery Commissioner. Sir Kevan will lead work to ensure children and young people can recover learning lost due to the pandemic. Education</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|                                                          | remains the top priority, with government committing £300 million to help with catch-up this year, on top of the £1 billion announced in June last year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Published 05 February 2021                               | <p><a href="#">First phase of school transformation launched</a></p> <p>First phase of Prime Minister's transformative school rebuilding programme launched, to level up opportunity for all. The Department for Education has announced that 50 schools are confirmed for the first wave of the Prime Minister's ten-year rebuilding programme, which are expected to be completed within 3-5 years. The first 50 projects are supported by £1bn in funding and mark the start of the School Rebuilding Programme which is due to deliver 500 rebuilding projects over the next decade. More than 70% of the schools are to be in the North and Midlands.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Published 10 February 2021                               | <p><a href="#">The Department for Education have announced plans to roll out new teaching school hubs</a></p> <p>81 hubs set up to provide high-quality professional development to teachers and leaders at all stages of their career, and play a key role in helping to build up trainee teachers as they enter the workforce. The Hubs will also help in delivering the Early Career Framework, and will be in operation from this September. Hubs will have a defined set of schools in a specific area to support; each hub will be expected to serve around 250 schools. This programme will run for an initial three years and be supported by £65m in funding.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Published 16 February 2021                               | <p><a href="#">Laptops and tablets data - week 7 2021</a></p> <p>Information about how many laptops and tablets that have been delivered or dispatched to local authorities and academy trusts. The LA data shows that Plymouth has received 1,799 devices (laptops and tablets) - delivered or dispatched to LAs or directly to LA-maintained schools since the start of the scheme. This does not include devices delivered to academy trusts which are listed in the trust data.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Ofsted Announcements</b>                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Updates between 11 January and 12 February 2021 include: | <p><a href="#">Ofsted: coronavirus (COVID-19) rolling update</a></p> <p>Ofsted guidance and information relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) for schools, early years, children's social care and further education and skills providers – rolling update.</p> <p>The 'Current activity' section was updated with details of planned activity until the February half term.</p> <p>The 'first aid certificate' section for childcare providers as updated: if paediatric first aid qualification cannot be updated because of coronavirus restrictions, certificates will be valid until 31 March 2021.</p> <p>Clarification was provided around planned inspection work being carried out remotely until March 8 at the earliest.</p> <p>Added information that after February half term, remote monitoring inspections in schools will normally last for one day and involve 2 HMI.</p> |

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| <p>Published 25 January 2021</p>  | <p><a href="#"><u>Ofsted research finds pupil motivation around remote education is a significant concern for parents and school leaders</u></a></p> <p>A new report from Ofsted has found that pupil engagement and motivation remains a significant challenge for schools providing remote education. Published on 25 January 2021, <a href="#"><u>Ofsted's in-depth study on remote education</u></a> finds that many schools are doing a good job of mitigating children's learning loss. But keeping pupils motivated remains a challenge, despite schools having made strides in their remote learning offers.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>Published 27 January 2021</p>  | <p><a href="#"><u>Ofsted's phased return to inspection</u></a></p> <p>Equality, diversity and inclusion statement on how Ofsted's return to routine inspection activity enables Ofsted to fulfil the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p>Published 02 February 2021</p> | <p><a href="#"><u>Ofsted inspections to be done remotely</u></a></p> <p>All planned inspection activity will be carried out remotely until 08 March at the earliest. However early years providers will be paused until 08 March at the earliest as it is not possible to provide the necessary level of assurance without on-site inspections. Ofsted will inspect schools rated 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' as planned, but will also follow up on complaints raised by parents across all grades of school in order to resolve issues. However as these inspections will not involve an on-site visit, they will be unable to cover the full scope of a monitoring inspection. Ofsted will publish details of the inspection process shortly. The full release can be found <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>.</p> |