

POLICY BRIEF

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

07 July 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.

Consultations and Calls for Evidence**[Exam Procedures Review Service in Summer 2021 – consultation on the Terms of Reference](#)**

Ofqual has published a consultation on proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for EPRS which will affect relevant qualifications awarded in summer 2021 only. EPRS is an Ofqual process to consider whether an awarding organisation followed an appropriate process when it determined the learner's result and when it considered any review or appeal in respect of that result. The proposed changes in the consultation will only affect the relevant qualifications awarded in summer 2021. The changes concern how EPRS will operate this year and who may make an application.

The consultation closes at 11:45pm on Monday 28 June.

Date of publication	Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
	All relevant guidance relating to schools, early years and childcare providers, further education and colleges and Children's Social Care providers continues to be updated in line with the government's roadmap for easing of restrictions.
Press release 18 June 2021	<p><u>More support for FE teachers to develop</u> The new £9.5 million Further Education Professional Development Grants pilot will support the commitment made in the government's Skills for Jobs White Paper to strengthen the professional development offer to the workforce, and boost teaching practices.</p>
Report published 17 June 2021	<p><u>Independent Review of Children's Social Care "The Case for Change"</u> The first report from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care "The Case for Change" has been published. This interim report sets out the initial findings of the review.</p>
Press release 17 June 2021	<p><u>Pupils to benefit from better quality PE and sport next year</u> The Education Secretary has announced Primary school children in England will benefit from higher quality PE lessons and better sport opportunities. Backed by a £320 million investment, the PE and Sport Premium will encourage children to play more sport, increase their social skills, and improve their physical activity after lockdown.</p>
Press release 16 June 2021	<p><u>£16 million to support young people with a social worker</u> Children with a social worker in England will benefit from further dedicated support in school and at college to help level up their outcomes in education and reach their full potential. The Government has announced more than £16 million for councils to extend the role of Virtual School Heads from September this year, meaning there will be a local champion for children with a social worker in every local authority in England.</p>

Press release 16 June 2021	Education Secretary set improving pupil outcomes as top priority Gavin Williamson spoke at the Festival of Education outlining how the Government will level up opportunities for young people, through strong multi-academy trusts, high-quality teacher training, good behaviour management and investment to help pupils catch-up.
Guidance updated 15 June 2021	Teaching about mental wellbeing Practical materials for primary and secondary schools to use to train staff about teaching mental wellbeing. Added guidance to support relationships, sex and health education curriculum planning, as part of education recovery.
Press release 13 June 2021	£3.4 million to expand The Duke of Edinburgh's Award in schools Department for Education investment will support pupils in deprived schools in England to take part in volunteering and extra-curricular learning. The investment is part of the Government's levelling up agenda to ensure all pupils have fair and equal access to high-quality enrichment activities, alongside a £14.4 billion increase in school funding over three years. The funding will cover the next three academic years to reach many thousands more young people aged 14 to 24, adding to the work in train to extend The Duke's legacy after his death in April.
Policy Paper Published 11 June 2021	Education recovery support A list of resources to help early years settings, schools and 16 to 19 education providers support children and young people's wellbeing and education recovery. This includes the recovery package announced in June 2021 as well as existing programmes announced in June 2020 and February 2021 . There are programmes and activities for pupils and students of all ages, including with consideration to disadvantaged pupils and students and those with SEND.
Press release 10 June 2021	More support for schools and colleges to tackle sexual abuse Teachers and school leaders will be better supported to recognise sexual harassment and abuse and teach confidently about issues of consent, online pornography and healthy relationships. School and college leaders will be encouraged to dedicate inset day time to help train staff on how to deal with sexual abuse and harassment among pupils and how to deliver the Government's new compulsory Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum (RSHE). The measures come as Ofsted publishes the findings from its thematic review into sexual abuse in education, commissioned by the Education Secretary in March following testimonies posted on the Everyone's Invited website which highlighted cases of sexual abuse and harassment of children and young people, including in education settings.
Press release 10 June 2021	COP26 launches environment education packs for UK schools and students Schools across the UK are being encouraged to start a conversation on climate change with their students, ahead of the UK hosting global climate summit COP26 later this year, as the Together for Our Planet Schools Pack launches. The pack, which is hosted on the COP26 website and sent to UK schools, is designed to engage students on climate action, encourage conversations about tackling climate change, and help students learn more about the COP26 summit in Glasgow this year. This will include a guide for running a green assembly,

	<p>along with ideas like a ‘walk to school’ week and resources that have been created by the likes of WWF and TED Talks to support schools.</p>
<p>Press release 08 June 2021</p>	<p>New education award empowers young people to tackle plastic pollution The Environment Agency has joined forces with national school network Partners in Excellence to launch a plastic pollution-focused award for young people. Key Stage 3 and 4 students from Partners in Excellence (PiXL) member schools can sign up for the ‘Green Edge Award’ programme from September and undertake one of three award levels – Apprentice, Pioneer and Graduate.</p> <p>The award is centred around character development with each award level focussing on 5 attributes – leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication. Students will be encouraged to demonstrate these skills through a series of activities, including plastic waste surveys, organising litter picks and setting up repair cafes.</p>
<p>Press release 21 May 2021</p>	<p>Department for Education announced a further £8 million as part of the AP Transition Fund for 2021/22 Young people in Alternative Provision (AP) at risk of unemployment or dropping out of education at age 16 are set to receive further mentoring, pastoral support and careers guidance under Government plans to level up opportunity for all young people and build back better.</p> <p>The money – up to £750 per pupil – will help AP settings pay for one-to-one support such as mentors or specialist transition coaches to help young people make decisions about their options after they finish school, helping guide them into further education, post-16 training routes or directly into employment.</p>
<p>News story 21 May 2021</p>	<p>Multimillion-pound investment to inspire children to walk to school A green initiative aimed at encouraging hundreds of thousands of children to walk to school has received £2.1 million in government support. The funding will help walking charity Living Streets extend its Walk to School Outreach programme to more than 1,000 primary schools across the country.</p> <p>The initiative, which has been running with Department for Transport (DfT) support since 2017, aims to promote the health and environmental benefits of walking to school for children aged 5 to 11 and their families. It plays an integral role in the government’s ambition to ensure more than half of children aged 5 to 10 are walking to school by 2025.</p>
<p>Press release 19 May 2021</p>	<p>More support for local areas to drive up school standards Plymouth is to be one of four areas to benefit from £10 million for intensive support to increase proportion of pupils in Good or Outstanding schools and where there is high potential for rapid improvement. The other areas are Ashfield & Mansfield, South Sefton & North Liverpool, and North Durham & City.</p> <p>The investment will help local schools join strong trusts and drive up standards with the support of experienced school and trust leaders. Up to half of the £10 million funding for the four areas receiving intensive support will be channelled through the Trust Capacity Fund, which opens for applications today from trusts looking to support more schools in those areas and across the country.</p>

Press release 18 May 2021	<p>New legislation to help transform opportunities for all</p> <p>The Skills and post-16 Education Bill has been introduced in Parliament, underpinning the government’s skills and training revolution. The key measures introduced in the Bill are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding employers in the heart of the skills system, by making it a legal requirement that employers and colleges collaborate to develop skills plans so that the training on offer meets the need of local areas, and so people no longer have to leave their home-towns to find great jobs. • Supporting the transformation of the current student loans system which will give every adult access to a flexible loan for higher-level education and training at university or college, useable at any point in their lives. • Introducing new powers to intervene when colleges are failing to deliver good outcomes for the communities they serve, and to direct structural change where needed to ensure colleges improve. <p>A range of policies are already in place to deliver the Prime Minister’s Lifetime Skills Guarantee, as set out by the Prime Minister last year. A new fund has been launched to future proof post-16 provision with a £83 million Post-16 Capacity fund. Providers are invited to bid for a share of the fund, which will support projects to create more space for areas where there is due to be a demographic increase in 16-19 year olds in the 2022/23 academic year.</p>
Press release 14 May 2021	<p>Safeguarding system needs to tackle “stubborn challenges”</p> <p>The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel has published its Annual Report for 2020. The independent expert panel reviews serious child safeguarding cases – when a child dies or suffers serious harm, and abuse or neglect is known or suspected. The report identifies 6 cross-cutting practice themes for safeguarding partners to make a difference in reducing serious harm and preventing child deaths in the context of abuse or neglect. These themes are supported by a bank of case studies that encapsulate key learning from case reviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding what the child’s daily life is like • Working with families where their engagement is reluctant and sporadic • Critical thinking and challenge • Responding to changing risk and need • Sharing information in a timely and appropriate way • Organisational leadership and culture for good outcomes.
Press release 13 May 2021	<p>Every school with Reception class offered early language training</p> <p>Every school in England with a Reception class is to be offered expert training in early language and communication. The £8 million expansion was announced by the Prime Minister in February as part of the new £700 million package to tackle lost learning, following the original £9 million investment as part of the National Tutoring Programme in June 2020. The expansion for the 2021-22 schools year will be managed and delivered by the Nuffield Foundation on the Government’s behalf, supported again by the University of Oxford and Oxford University Press.</p>
Press release 29 April 2021	<p>New law to make school uniform costs affordable for all</p> <p>A new law will require schools to follow Government statutory guidance on school uniform costs. The Act, which received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021,</p>

	will require schools to follow new statutory guidance on uniform costs, instructing them to keep prices down.
Ofsted Announcements	
Press release 16 June 2021	<u>Children and young people with SEND disproportionately affected by pandemic</u> Long-standing problems in the system of care for children and young people with SEND have been made even worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, a new report from Ofsted has found.
News story published 07 June 2021	<u>Ofsted publishes research review on languages education</u> Ofsted has published the fourth in a series of reviews into different subjects across the curriculum. The review explores the literature relating to foreign languages education to identify factors that can contribute to a high-quality languages curriculum, assessment, pedagogy and systems. The findings will be used to examine how languages are taught in England's schools.
Press release 25 May 2021	<u>Ofsted publishes research review on mathematics education</u> Ofsted has published the third in a series of reviews into different subjects across the curriculum. The latest review looks at mathematics education. The review draws on Ofsted's education inspection framework (EIF) and other literature to identify factors that can contribute to a high-quality maths curriculum, assessment, pedagogy and systems. They will use these findings to examine how maths is taught in England's schools, before publishing a report about what they have learned in the autumn.
Press release 13 May 2021	<u>Some pupils with SEND missing out on specialist support</u> Some pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in mainstream schools are not getting enough help to support their learning and development, even when external services are involved, according to a new research report by Ofsted.