

## POLICY BRIEF

Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

08 September 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

#### Fair school funding for all: completing our reforms to the National Funding Formula

The DfE is seeking views on:

- the approach to completing reforms to the National Funding Formula (NFF)
- how they most effectively transition away from local formulae to all schools' funding allocations being determined directly by the NFF in the years ahead.

The Department for Education have launched a consultation seeking views on how to simplify the process of school funding, ensuring all schools are funded on a single, consistent basis. The proposals in this consultation will help to complete the current programme of reforms to the funding system. It will also help to underpin the government's ambition for all schools to be part of a strong multi-academy trust. The consultation will look at:

- Ensuring a smooth transition for schools as they implement reforms.
- Supporting effective SEND provision for schools.
- Developing the schools NFF, particularly to improve how funding is allocated to schools that face additional premises costs.

This is the first stage of the consultation on these reforms and will be open for responses until **Thursday 30 September**. A second stage will be published in due course.

#### Prioritising schools for the School Rebuilding Programme

The Prime Minister announced the School Rebuilding Programme (SRP) in June 2020 to carry out major rebuilding and refurbishment projects at schools and sixth form colleges in England over the next decade. The goal of the programme is to identify and carry out projects at the schools most in need of major rebuilding or refurbishment. They have already announced the first 100 schools.

Open consultation on the approach to prioritising schools for future places in the programme. The consultation closes 08 October 2021.

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.	
Updated guidance published 06 July 2021	<p>I. <a href="#">Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges</a></p> <p>Advice for schools and colleges on how to prevent and respond to reports of sexual violence and harassment between children. The guidance 'sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges' has been updated following a public consultation and comes into force on 01 September 2021.</p>

<p>Updated guidance published 06 July 2021</p>	<p>2. <a href="#">Keeping children safe in education</a></p> <p>Statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children and safer recruitment. The guidance has been updated to include 'Keeping children safe in education 2021'. It comes into force on 01 September 2021.</p>
<p>Press release 08 July 2021</p>	<p>3. <a href="#">New recovery fund to tackle harms facing vulnerable children</a></p> <p>£24 million regional fund for children's social care, including funding to support unaccompanied minors. The new fund will support projects tackling the issues facing the most vulnerable children in society in 2021-22, including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) abuse, care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, preventing adolescents from being caught up in harms outside the home such as gangs and reducing the pressure on the system by reducing court backlogs or improving technology.</p> <p>Funding will be distributed through England's network of nine Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliances according to plans based on local priorities.</p>
<p>Research and analysis published 08 July 2021</p>	<p>4. <a href="#">Children's homes workforce literature review and call for evidence</a></p> <p>The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) recommended in its Interim Report (April 2018), that the Department for Education (DfE) introduces registration of staff working in care roles in children's homes. They recommended an independent body be responsible for setting and maintaining standards of training, conduct and continuing professional development, with the power to enforce these through fitness to practice procedures.</p> <p>DfE responded by conducting a literature review and call for evidence to examine the evidence and the views of the sector.</p> <p>The government has informed IICSA that it will continue to keep the recommendation for a professional register of the residential childcare sector under review.</p>
<p>Press release 09 July 2021</p>	<p>5. <a href="#">Higher GCSE grades linked to lifetime earnings boost</a></p> <p>New research shows the link between GCSE attainment and earnings over a person's lifetime.</p> <p>For the first time ever, statisticians and economists at the Department for Education have established a direct link between GCSE attainment and an increase in lifetime earnings after tracking the earnings of more than two million people in England.</p> <p>Those who perform just one GCSE grade better than their counterparts across nine subjects have been shown to earn on average over £200,000 more throughout their lives.</p> <p>School Standards Minister Nick Gibb said the Government has committed to an ambitious and long-term education recovery plan, including an investment to date of over £3bn and a significant expansion of tutoring, which will include supporting pupils completing GCSEs, to help children and young people make up for learning lost during the pandemic.</p>

Press release 09 July 2021	<p>6. <a href="#">£10 million scheme to help pupils boost core skills</a></p> <p>Programmes targeted at pupils starting primary and secondary school, who will take part in focused English and maths catch-up sessions. The scheme will begin in the autumn term. Specialist training and materials will be provided to support focused sessions to boost numeracy and literacy skills and help pupil's catch-up in these core subjects. Schools with high proportions of children from disadvantaged backgrounds will be prioritised for the schemes in order to support those most impacted by the disruption to their education.</p>
Press release 09 July 2021	<p>7. <a href="#">More children to benefit from free breakfast clubs</a></p> <p>National School Breakfast Programme to support children in disadvantaged areas over next two years.</p> <p>Family Action has been confirmed by the Department for Education as the delivery partner for the National School Breakfast Programme – building on the Government's commitment to level up children's outcomes across England.</p> <p>Backed by up to £24 million of government investment, Family Action will source and deliver breakfast food products to schools from September, and through the programme support up to 2,500 schools between 2021-22 and 2022-23.</p>
Press release 14 July 2021	<p>8. <a href="#">Reforms to post-16 education and training</a></p> <p>The Department for Education announced a series of reforms to the post-16 education system which will be phased in from 2023. The new system will create two paths for people who have completed GCSEs or similar courses: academic qualifications that primarily lead to further study, and technical qualifications that primarily lead to skilled employment. Apprenticeships, A levels and new T Levels will become the main progression options after GCSEs.</p> <p>The system announced forms part of the government's reforms to post-16 education and training as set out in the <a href="#">Skills for Jobs White Paper</a>.</p>
Press release 20 July 2021	<p>9. <a href="#">SMC calls for children to be put centre stage of pandemic recovery</a></p> <p>The Social Mobility Commission calls for a shake-up of child welfare benefits and significant investment in education to put disadvantaged children and young people at centre stage of the government's recovery plan. Its <a href="#">State of the nation report 2021</a>, unveils in detail the devastating impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on the UK's four nations and warns that this will be felt for decades. Attainment gaps between disadvantaged and privileged children at school are already widening and young people from poorer backgrounds have been more likely to lose paid work than better off peers.</p>
Press release 22 July 2021	<p>10. <a href="#">£1 million education programme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children announced</a></p> <p>The programmes will focus on boosting educational attainment, tackling exclusion and drop-out rates and improving pathways to employment for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.</p>

Press release 26 July 2021	<p>11. <a href="#">Families across England to receive better support to adopt</a></p> <p>Backed by a £48 million investment, the new National Adoption Strategy has been launched to improve adoption services in England. This will be done by putting in place better recruitment across the country and removing any unnecessary delays, providing more training for front line staff, improving approval processes, and funding for targeted recruitment campaigns.</p>
Press release 31 July 2021	<p>12. <a href="#">Thousands more students to learn ancient and modern languages</a></p> <p>More students across the country will have the opportunity to learn Latin through a new £4 million programme, announced by the Education Secretary.</p> <p>The Latin Excellence Programme will aim to level up opportunities for state secondary school pupils, as well as helping them with other subjects like English, French, Spanish and even maths. According to a British Council survey Latin is only taught at key stage 3 in 2.7% of state schools compared to 49% of independent schools.</p> <p>The Government is also announcing the next phase of the £16.4m Mandarin Excellence Programme, and the fourth year of the £4.8 million modern foreign languages pilot, which supports schools to teach French, German and Spanish up to GCSE.</p>
Press release 12 August 2021	<p>13. <a href="#">Government announces £4 million boost towards opportunities for young people</a></p> <p>The Minister for Civil Society and Youth, Baroness Barran has announced that the Government will invest an additional £2 million into the #iwill Fund, which will be matched by The National Lottery Community Fund to create thousands of new volunteering, social action and community activities for young people.</p>
Press release 19 August 2021	<p>14. <a href="#">£20m to provide more early help for vulnerable families</a></p> <p>Vulnerable or low-income families in England will benefit from a multi-million-pound investment to improve access to early education, health, and care services.</p> <p>The £20 million, awarded from the Treasury's Shared Outcomes Fund, will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £10 million for the Family Hubs 'Transformation Fund', which will support local authorities to open family hubs in approximately 10 new areas of England. Family Hubs are already operating in several areas of England, providing vital support services to vulnerable families; and</li> <li>• £10 million to expand the 'Growing Up Well' digital project, designed to level up outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged families. This involves improving how information is shared between professionals working with families and children in these Hubs.</li> </ul>
Press release 21 August 2021	<p>15. <a href="#">All schools to receive carbon dioxide monitors</a></p> <p>Education settings will be provided with carbon dioxide monitors from September, backed by £25 million in government funding. The new monitors will</p>

	<p>enable staff to act quickly where ventilation is poor and provide reassurance that existing ventilation measures are working.</p> <p>The majority of c. 300,000 monitors will become available over the autumn term, with special schools and alternative provision prioritised to receive their full allocation from September given their higher-than-average numbers of vulnerable pupils.</p>
<b>Ofsted Announcements</b>	
News Story 12 July 2021	<p>16. <a href="#">Simply 'doing' music is not enough</a></p> <p>Ofsted has published its latest research review looking at music education in schools. Ofsted plans to publish a report on the quality of the music curriculum taught in schools in 2022. They will gather the evidence for this through subject 'deep dives' during inspections under the EIF.</p>
News story 14 July 2021	<p>17. <a href="#">Building 'layers of knowledge' – what makes a great history education?</a></p> <p>Ofsted has published its latest research review looking at history education in schools. The review explores how pupils get better at history. It emphasises how essential it is for pupils to develop 'layers' of knowledge, which they can draw on to make sense of more complex ideas, and to construct their own historical arguments and accounts.</p> <p>Amanda Spielman, Ofsted's Chief Inspector, said: A good history education is so important to children's education. Studying history helps children to understand their place in the world, and in the long story of human development. And it challenges them to make sense of the similarities and differences in human experiences across time and place.</p>
News story 15 July 2021	<p>18. <a href="#">Ofsted publishes annual report and accounts 2020-21</a></p> <p>The latest annual report and accounts for 2020 to 2021, highlighting the work and financial information for the last year. As routine inspections were paused during 2020 to 2021, this year's report does not include the usual performance data. Instead, it reflects on how Ofsted adapted to the changing COVID-19 restrictions, supporting the sectors they inspect and regulate as well as the national COVID response.</p>