

DfE Changes – Update July 2015 to September 2015

Childcare Bill: policy statement

1. The Childcare Bill is delivering the government's election manifesto commitment to giving families where all parents are working an entitlement to 30 hours of free childcare for their three- and four-year olds. The DfE have released a [policy statement](#)¹ outlining further details on the intention behind the legislation to extend free entitlement to childcare with an additional 15 hours of free childcare per week, to be implemented in September 2017.
2. The conditions for eligibility will include:
 - working parents with children aged three and four;
 - parents working part-time or full-time – each parent must be working the equivalent of 8 hours per week at the national minimum wage;
 - parents who are employed or who are self-employed;
 - and lone parents who are working the equivalent of 8 hours per week at the national minimum wage to support their families.

Protecting children from radicalisation: the prevent duty

3. From 1 July 2015 all schools and childcare providers became subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.
4. New [guidance](#)² for schools and childcare providers has been issued. The main points of this advice are to:
 - explain what the Prevent duty means for schools and childcare providers;
 - make clear what schools and childcare providers should do to demonstrate compliance with the duty; and
 - inform schools and childcare providers about other sources of information, advice and support.

Keeping children safe in education

5. The statutory [guidance](#)³ has been updated to reflect the new prevent duty, to emphasise responsibilities concerning children missing from education, and to provide more content on female genital mutilation.

School admissions code

6. This statutory [guidance](#)⁴ has been re-issued and now includes an explanatory note about school places for children of public officials returning from overseas.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childcare-bill-policy-statement>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-children-from-radicalisation-the-prevent-duty>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

7. School Admissions Code requires that for families of UK service personnel with a confirmed posting to their area or Crown servants returning from overseas to live in that area, admission authorities must allocate a school place in advance of their move, provided their application is accompanied by an official letter declaring a relocation date and unit address or quartering address.
8. If schools are oversubscribed, the admission authority needs to be satisfied that places are allocated lawfully and may expect to have some level of certainty about a family's intended new address, to ensure a place is allocated lawfully.

Coasting Schools

9. 'Coasting' schools were identified as part of the government's three point plan to tackle substandard state education in England. This [publication⁵](#) provides illustrative regulations regarding the proposed definitions of a coasting school to accompany the passage of the Education and Adoption Bill through Parliament. It includes an explanatory statement of how the coasting regulations as proposed would apply to primary schools and secondary schools, and an example of the regulations as they would be drawn up.

Constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools

10. This statutory [guidance⁶](#) is about the constitution of governing bodies and their size, membership and skills. It sets out the arrangements for the constitution of school governing bodies of all local-authority-maintained schools formed on or after 1 September 2012, or whose instrument of government changed on or after 1 September 2012.
11. This replaces the May 2014 guidance to revise information on governing bodies; governors; 2007 constitution regulations; and the model instrument of government.

Home School agreements

12. Statutory [guidance⁷](#) for governing bodies and local authorities on home-school agreements has been released. A home-school agreement is a statement explaining:
 - the school's aims and values;
 - the school's responsibilities towards its pupils who are of compulsory school age;
 - the responsibility of each pupil's parents; and
 - what the school expects of its pupils.
13. All maintained schools, academies, city technologies colleges and city colleges for the technology of the arts are required to publish a home-school agreement and associated parental declaration.
14. Schools must take reasonable steps to ensure that all registered parents of pupils sign the parental declaration to indicate that they understand and accept the contents of the home-school agreement. The DfE has reviewed and republished this guidance and confirmed it is up to date.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coasting-schools-illustrative-regulations>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/constitution-of-governing-bodies-of-maintained-schools>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-school-agreements>

Behaviour and discipline in schools

15. New statutory [guidance](#)⁸ has been issued to explain:
- why all schools must have a behaviour policy
 - what behaviour policies must cover
 - the role of the governing body and headteachers in shaping their school's behaviour policy
16. Additional [documentation](#)⁹ has been produced to complement the statutory guidance. This explains the powers members of staff have to discipline pupils. It is for individual schools to develop their own best practice for managing behaviour in their school.

Academies Update

17. Number in Wiltshire as at end of September 2015:

Sponsored academies	16
Non-sponsored converter academies	54

18. New academies in this period:

The Trinity CofE VA Primary, Devizes
St Dunstan Primary New name: Marden Vale C of E Academy
Seagry C of E (VA) Primary
Somerfords' Walter Powell Primary
Bradon Forest School

Reviewing Post-16 Institutions

19. This [document](#)¹⁰ contains information about the colleges in scope of area reviews and includes timescales, and roles and responsibilities within the review process.
20. Each review will start by assessing the economic and educational needs of the area, and the implications for post-16 education and training provision, including school sixth forms, sixth form colleges, further education colleges and independent providers. The reviews will then focus on the current structure of further education and sixth form colleges.
21. This approach is designed achieve a transition towards fewer, larger, more resilient and efficient providers, and more effective collaboration across institution types. A critical aspect will be to create greater specialisation, with the establishment of institutions that are genuine centres of expertise, able to support sustained progression in professional and technical disciplines, alongside excellence in other fundamental areas – such as English and maths.

SEN transfer review

22. The Department for Education has published [legislation](#)¹¹ to extend the maximum time period local authorities can take to complete a transfer review

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools-guidance-for-governing-bodies>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-and-discipline-in-schools>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reviewing-post-16-education-and-training-institutions-list-of-area-reviews>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-managing-changes-to-legislation-from-september-2014--3>

of a statement of SEN to an EHC plan. For those transfer reviews starting on or after 1 September 2015, the timescale for completion has been extended from 16 to 20 weeks. This represents a minimum two week notification period and a maximum of 18 weeks for the transfer review itself.

Children Act 1989: care planning, placement and case review

23. This [document](#)¹² consolidates a number of separate documents that have been previously published, incorporating all supplements published to March 2015 and includes 'Delegation of authority to foster carers'.

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¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/children-act-1989-care-planning-placement-and-case-review>