

DfE Changes – Update April 2018 – May 2018

Schools that work for everyone

1. The DfE has published its response to the *Schools that work for everyone* consultation which was seeking views on proposals to create more good school places. It details a package of measures will promote:
 - a new wave of free school applications
 - an expansion to the number of places at existing good or outstanding selective schools alongside measures to give more disadvantaged pupils the opportunity to attend these schools
 - new support for faith schools where there is demand for good school places
 - fresh agreement with the independent school sector to help improve outcomes for pupils of all backgrounds
2. These measures aim to deliver a stronger partnership between different parts of the education system in local areas, to raise standards across the system and to create new good school places in areas where they are needed. The aspiration is to create more school places, give parents greater choice and raise education standards – including in disadvantaged areas.
3. The full response can be accessed [here](#).

Elective home education consultation

4. The DfE has launched a call for evidence to help consideration of whether the current arrangements for oversight of elective home education are adequate to fulfil the government's aspiration that all children in England should receive a good education. Comments and feedback are being sought on:
 - registration of children educated at home
 - monitoring of home education provision
 - support for home educators
5. It also seeks views on draft DfE guidance documents about elective home education, one designed for local authorities and the other for parents. The local authority guidance is intended to help local authorities understand their powers and duties in relation to children who are being educated at home, and how those relate to the obligations of parents.
6. The consultation is open until 2nd July 2018 and can be accessed [here](#).

Academies Update

7. Number in Wiltshire at the end of May 2018:

Sponsored academies	22
Non-sponsored converter academies	70

8. New academies in this period:

Great Bedwyn Primary School

Keeping children safe in education

9. The government has published a summary of responses received and its response, outlining the next steps, to the consultation on keeping children safe in education. The consultation was seeking views on revisions to the September 2016 statutory guidance which sets out what schools and colleges should do and the legal duties with which they must comply to keep children safe. The government proposes to update and replace the current statutory guidance. The full consultation outcome can be found [here](#).
10. The DfE have published, alongside the response, a draft of the revised KCSIE guidance for information so schools and colleges can plan for the commencement of the guidance on 3 September 2018. Until the new revised guidance commences on 3 September 2018, the existing statutory guidance (Keeping children safe in education September 2016) remains in force and is what schools and colleges must continue to have regard to. Both sets of guidance can be found [here](#).
11. The DfE have also published revised Child on Child Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment advice, which can be found [here](#)

Children of dependent drinkers

12. Public Health England have published guidance to help local areas to identify problematic parental substance use to help commission services to reduce and prevent harm to children and families. The guidance has been developed to support local authorities to:
- identify problematic parental alcohol and drug use as early as possible
 - ensure that the services they commission have sufficient capacity and resources to support parents and children affected by problem parental alcohol and drug use
 - identify and commission interventions to reduce harm and promote recovery for parents who misuse alcohol and drugs and to also reduce and prevent harm to their children
 - address the effects of adverse childhood experiences and to safeguard children
13. The toolkit includes data and advice on how best to meet the needs of children growing up in these situations and those of their parents and carers, and can be accessed [here](#).

14. The Department of Health & Social Care, The Department for Work & Pensions and Public Health England have launched a new £4.5 million fund aimed at improving the support services for children of dependent drinkers and alcohol dependent parents. The fund is being managed by PHE and the application phase for the innovation fund opened on 22 May, running until 17 July.

Updated guidance on the provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless and/or require accommodation

15. Updated statutory guidance on supporting 16 and 17 year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness has been jointly issued by MHCLG and the Department for Education. The guidance was originally published in 2010 following court judgements (including the Southwark Judgement) which clarified that primary responsibility for assessing the needs of 16 and 17 year olds rests with Children's Services. That principle remains – the main changes to the guidance are to reflect new provisions in the Homelessness Reduction Act (2017) and changes to Working Together. The updated guidance can be found [here](#).

Launch of Government response to the Internet Safety Strategy Green Paper

16. The Internet Safety Strategy Green Paper, which was published in October 2017, set out the government's proposals relating to tackling unacceptable behaviour and content online, particularly those harms including cyberbullying, online abuse, harassment, trolling and sexting, that affect children.

17. The consultation covered various aspects of online safety including:
- The introduction of a social media code of practice, transparency reporting and a social media levy
 - Technological solutions to online harms
 - Developing children's digital literacy
 - Support for parents and carers
 - Adults' experience of online abuse
 - Young people's use of online dating websites/ applications.

18. The government's response sets out the findings from the consultation and announces the intention to publish a White Paper before the end of the year to set out more definitive steps on online harms and safety. The response can be accessed [here](#).

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