

Wiltshire Council  
Children Select Committee  
March 2023

## DfE updates and changes – January to March 2023

### School rebuilding programme: schools in the programme

1. 239 school buildings to be transformed as part of revolutionary ten-year programme [Link](#) published 16/12/22

2. **Wiltshire's position:** We submitted five bids for Wiltshire maintained schools and were advised on the 16/12/2022 that the refurbishment of the listed building at Silverwood School, Rowde had been preliminarily approved. The approved list included 239 schools nationwide. These schools will be reviewed and prioritised according to the condition of their buildings and other relevant criteria, and only scheduled for delivery on completion and resolution of due diligence checks.

Academies were also able to apply directly to the programme, in Wiltshire two were also successful in obtaining preliminary approval. These were Pewsey Vale Academy and Noremarsh Junior School.

### Pupil premium

3. Information on pupil premium funding, how school leaders can use it effectively and pupil premium strategy statements. We have updated 'Pupil premium: overview' to include pupil premium rates for the financial year 2023 to 2024 [Link](#) updated 16/12/22

4. **Wiltshire's position:** The funding has been communicated to school leaders through the Heads Newsletter as part of our regular communications with schools.

### Holiday help: Holiday activity clubs continue in 2023

5. Government confirms funding for Holiday Activities and Food programme for 2023, supporting hundreds of thousands of children from low-income families. [Link](#) Published 22/12/22

### 6. **Wiltshire's position: FUEL - Holiday, Activity and Food Programme 2023**

Wiltshire Council will continue to deliver the Holiday Activity and Food programme, known locally as FUEL in Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays during 2023. The programme will continue to provide children eligible for benefit related free school meals with access to free enriching activities, healthy meals and nutritional workshops.

### **Easter 2023 Programme - 3 April - 6 April 2023.**

Ten camps will take place in Amesbury, Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Melksham, Royal Wootton Bassett, Salisbury, Trowbridge, Marlborough and Westbury.

Two camps for young people with special educational needs and/or a disability will also take place at Springfield Community Campus in Corsham and at Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre in Salisbury.

## Further Information & Applications

Applications to attend Easter FUEL camps are now open and will close on **22 March 2023**. A designated page for schools to access booklets and menu/activity information to share with Parents/Carers is available on Right Choice, our communication, resources and training portal for all schools. Further information about the programme can be found on the Wiltshire Council website.

## New careers programme for primary school pupils

7. The government has announced that primary school pupils are to benefit from a new careers programme. Additionally, from 1 January, young people will receive careers advice through a change in the law that will see all year 8 – 13 pupils have at least six opportunities to meet a range of providers of technical education. Pupils will get to understand the full range of opportunities available to them, including apprenticeships, T Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications, not just a traditional academic route. The primary school scheme will be rolled out across 55 disadvantaged areas of the country where school outcomes are the weakest. It will support more than 600,000 pupils in over 2,200 primary schools and is backed by £2.6 million of funding. [Link](#) Published 05/01/23

8. **Wiltshire's position:** The Council will work through the Swindon and Wiltshire Careers Hub to look at the implications of the announcement on the Primary Schools in Wiltshire and the extent to which our Primary Schools are covered by the programme announcement. The programme would build on the requirement that every secondary school should offer their pupils at least one experience of a workplace by age 16 and a further work experience by age 18, giving them the opportunity to get a sense of the skills that are valued in the workplace to forge a great career. Careers advice and guidance is currently an area of strength coming through Wiltshire Secondary School Ofsted reports.

## Schools continue to improve since pandemic

9. More schools in England are now good or outstanding with the latest inspection outcomes showing a continuing trend of improvement since the pandemic [Link](#) published 17/01/23

10. **Wiltshire's position:** This is reported through a standing agenda item.

## Defibrillator deliveries begin for all schools that need one

11. All state-funded schools in England currently without a defibrillator to receive one by the end of the academic year [Link](#) published 20/01/23

12. **Wiltshire's position:** This update has been communicated to school leaders through the Heads Newsletter as part of our regular communications with schools.

## Music education: information for parents and young people

13. A guide to the national plan for music education and how to get help for parents, carers and young people [Link](#) published 20/01/23

14. **Wiltshire's position:** The National Plan for Music has been an excellent conversation generator for Wiltshire Music Connect and the schools of Wiltshire. There are two key measures

that show the level of support and funding contribution to support our music agenda in line with the national plan. Wiltshire Music

## First Access

First Access is about providing whole classes or class groups with a formative opportunity to experience and enjoy music making. Wiltshire Music Connect run a subsidy scheme for First Access tuition where it is delivered by one of the Associate tutors and / or a designated member within the school's staff. We encourage schools to think about how incoming expertise can be linked to wider agendas such as literacy & numeracy.

For 2022/23 79 Schools benefitted from the scheme, total subsidy paid was £22,276.80

For 2021/22 69 Schools benefitted from the scheme, total subsidy paid was £17,676.19

Further information about First Access can be found on the Wiltshire Music Connect website here:

<https://wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/schools/first-access/>

## Music Tuition

Music Tuition is about supporting [Associates](#) and schools in offering affordable lessons to new & continuing pupils who may otherwise miss out on the opportunity.

For 2022/23 73 Schools benefitted from the scheme, total subsidy paid was £99,300.48

For 2021/22 73 Schools benefitted from the scheme, total subsidy paid was £79,195.32

Further information about the Music Tuition subsidy scheme can be found on the Wiltshire Music Connect website here:

<https://wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk/schools/inst-vocal/>

## Benefits of Music

Wiltshire Music Connect have a range of resources to explain why music matters to children and young people. The Film for KS4 can be found here:

[Why Music ? | Wiltshire Music Connect](#)

## Exploring school collaboration and workload reduction

15. Research into how schools collaborate with one another to promote efficiencies in teachers' and leaders' time [Link](#) published 26/01/23

16. **Wiltshire's position:** School effectiveness actively promote schools working together in strong collaborations across the system whether as groups of maintained schools or academy trusts. The revised school improvement framework places a strong emphasis and expectation of schools working in families to secure more effective and sustainable improvements.

## Economic benefits of effective reception classes

17. Report looking at the association between progress in maths and English during the reception year, and earnings in later life [Link](#) published 26/01/23

## 18. **Wiltshire's position:**

In Wiltshire we know that Literacy and Mathematics are currently the lowest performing areas of learning on the Early Years Profile. To support this, we have provided new training and support on both literacy and mathematics. Writing has had a particular focus and we have set up a specific page on Right Choice to support both early years settings and schools.

New Mathematics training has been developed to reflect the changes to the curriculum that happened in September 21. One of the Early Years Advisory Teachers is also working closely with the Mobius Maths hub and is part of the strategic group as the Early Years representative to ensure that we are helping to shape the mathematics support for schools. We have also delivered specific early mathematics training for the School Improvement Advisors (SIAs) to ensure that they are able to identify quality when on visits.

## **Staying Close funding: application guide**

19. Guidance for local authorities applying for funding to support young people leaving care from children's homes [Link](#) published 27/01/23

20. **Wiltshire's position:** Wiltshire is not eligible to apply due to success in the previous programme.

## **Long-term strategy launched to fix children's social care**

21. Government to transform children's social care, with ambitious plans that put families at the heart of reform [Link](#) published 02/02/23

22. **Wiltshire's position:** A paper in relation to this is tabled for Children's Select Committee in March and outlines the Wiltshire position. Our response to the consultation and implementation plan is being developed for submission by May 2023.

## **Apprenticeships boosted under plans to broaden UCAS**

23. Young people will soon be able to search and apply for apprenticeships on UCAS [Link](#) published 06/02/23

24. **Wiltshire's position:** This update has been communicated to school leaders through the Heads Newsletter as part of our regular communications with schools and through the workflow of the Swindon and Wiltshire Careers Hub.

## **State of the nation reports: children and young people's wellbeing**

25. Reports on the wellbeing of children and young people [Link](#) published 07/02/23

26. **Wiltshire's position:** The Council has its own Online Pupil Survey that looks locally at the Health and Well-being of our students. There are various training programmes in place to support schools including the Healthy Schools Award.

## **Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools**

27. Summary of responsibilities where a mental health issue is affecting attendance and examples of effective practice [Link](#) published 07/02/23

28. **Wiltshire's position:** The Council has been proactive in supporting schools through training what is described as Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA). We share best practice through briefings and newsletters.

## **Use of reasonable force and restrictive practices in schools**

29. We're seeking to understand how reasonable force, restraint and restrictive practices are used in schools, to inform revisions to guidance [Link](#) published 16/02/23

30. **Wiltshire's position:** The consultation link has been shared with schools through the newsletter.