

DfE updates and changes – October 2023 to January 2024

National Citizen Service (NCS): guidance for schools and colleges **Guidance**

1. How to use NCS in a school or college to help develop students' skills and confidence. Replaced 'National Citizen Service: guidance for schools and colleges' with a new version reflecting the NCS strategy for 2023 to 2025 [Link](#) Updated 09/10/23
2. Wiltshire's position: Updated or new guidance that is published by the DfE is shared through the Heads Bulletin that schools receive on a weekly basis.

School and college security **Guidance**

3. Guidance to help schools and colleges manage their security effectively so they can meet their obligations. Change made: Updated the further guidance section of 'School and college security', and added a link to the Youth Endowment Fund toolkit [School and college security - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Updated 09/10/23
4. Wiltshire's position: Updated or new guidance that is published by the DfE is shared through the Heads Bulletin that schools receive on a weekly basis.

Transforming children and young people's mental health provision **Transparency Data**

5. A summary of the delivery of commitments in the transforming children and young people's mental health provision green paper. Change made; Added a report on the 'Mental health support team school and college survey'. [Transforming children and young people's mental health provision - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Updated 10/10/23
6. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire has 3 Mental Health Support Teams in place and will bid to expand our coverage of schools when the next opportunity arises. The Council delivered the DfE assured Senior Mental Health Lead training to schools from 2021-2023. The latest figures show take-up of this CPD across Wiltshire is 80%, compared to 67% across the South West, and approximately 60% nationally.

To further support these national initiatives, Wiltshire schools will be taking part in Wiltshire's Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Survey 2024. This survey is for all pupils in years 4 to 6 in primary and special school settings and years 8,10, 12 in secondary and special school settings, alongside all students in FE colleges The survey will run from 19th February until 20th March 2024 and participation is free for all settings, state, and independent schools.

National pupil projections: October 2023 **Official Statistics**

7. Projections for the number of pupils in schools by type of school and age group [Link](#) published 19/10/23
8. Wiltshire's position: The data published is available at national level only and shows that the population attending primary and nursery schools peaked in 2019 and the figures have been dropping since then. This is primarily due to the continued reductions in the birth numbers since 2013, although there was a larger drop in the population in 2021 which may have been connected to the pandemic. Figures have been stable for the two years since then but are expected to drop from 2024 onwards.

The peak in the secondary school population is projected to be in 2024 - 2025, followed by a drop throughout the rest of the projection period.

New measures to protect children's learning from strike action [Press Release](#)

9. Minimum service Levels to protect children and young people's education are set to be introduced in schools and colleges, the Government has announced [Link](#) published 20/10/23

10. Wiltshire's position: This information has been disseminated through the Heads Bulletins that schools receive on a weekly basis.

Education Secretary says parents can see sex education material [Press Release](#)

11. Education Secretary's letters make crystal clear that schools must share relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) curriculum material with parents [Education Secretary says parents can see sex education material - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Published 23/10/23

12. Wiltshire's position: As a Council we encourage all our schools to share details of their Sex and Relationships Education material via their school websites, which is the principal route for schools in terms of sharing curriculum content. Regular PSHE updates and network meetings are provided for school staff and governors.

Secretary of State letters to schools about sharing curriculum resources with parents [Correspondence](#)

13. Letters clarifying schools' responsibilities to share teaching materials with parents, particularly relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) resources. Change made; Added a new letter from Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP to schools about sharing curriculum resources. [Secretary of State letters to schools about sharing curriculum resources with parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Updated 24/10/23

14. Wiltshire's position: As a Council we encourage all our schools to share details of their RSHE material via their school websites, which is the principal route for schools in terms of sharing curriculum content.

Government continues children's social care reform [Press Release](#)

15. Funding for over 460 new children's social worker apprenticeship opportunities across the country [Government continues children's social care reform - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Published 25/10/23

16. Wiltshire's position: We were successful in our bid for funding for the DofE Apprenticeship scheme. We have successfully recruited 3 internal future apprentices for our first cohort starting 2024. DfE funding has meant that two year's worth of funding were confirmed however the third year has not been. Furthermore, we do not know the future position in further years which makes it hard for us to plan ahead. We have an existing Apprenticeship scheme via University of Gloucester and we have our first cohort graduating this winter. If we were able to plan ahead with the DofE apprenticeship alone, this would result in better use of time focussing on one apprenticeship route rather than two.

Wraparound childcare: guidance for local authorities [guidance](#)

17. Explains the role of local authorities and the funding they'll get to expand the availability of wraparound care in their areas from September 2024 [Wraparound childcare: guidance for local authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Published 27/10/23

18. Wiltshire's position We are currently mapping the provision of wraparound provision that we already have and identifying areas where we need more or new provision to be set up. We have been given delivery funding as well as capital to support the roll out of this initiative. Expressions of interest for capital funding will

be sought for those areas where we need to expand or create new provisions. We are focussing on maintaining and expanding the provisions that we already have, to protect those businesses.

Plans have been made for the internal staff that will need to be recruited and when we need these posts to be in place.

Education and training statistics for the UK: 2023 **National Statistics**

19. Data on schools, attainment, qualifications gained, education expenditure, further education and higher education in the UK [Education and training statistics for the UK: 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Published 09/11/23

20. Wiltshire's position: As a Council we conduct our own internal analysis of data which provides us with insights in terms of our performance and enables us to compare Wiltshire with both national, regional and statistical neighbours. We provide summary information through our Performance Outcomes Groups, the Performance Outcomes Board and through presentations at Heads Briefings and other forums.

Termination warning notice to Pewsey Vale School **Correspondence**

21. Termination warning notice to the Pewsey Vale School (Single Academy Trust) in relation to Pewsey Vale School [Termination warning notice to Pewsey Vale School - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Published 22/09/23

22. Wiltshire's position: Pewsey Vale Secondary School is a Standalone Academy Trust. As a Local Authority we are working with the DfE Regional Director and her team alongside the school to ensure that the school becomes part of a Multi-Academy Trust moving forwards.

Promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing **Guidance**

23. Guidance on the 8 principles of a whole school or college approach to promoting mental health and wellbeing. Change made; Retagged as belonging to OHID (rather than PHE) [Promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Updated 16/11/23

24. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire use our Healthy Schools programme to support schools embed this guidance, alongside a wider approach to health and wellbeing. Following the Council's delivery of Senior Mental Health Lead training, a series of ongoing network meetings have been established to further embed this guidance and support school mental health leads.

More children score full marks in their times tables check **Press Release**

25. 29% of children scored full marks in their Multiplication Table Check in 2023, up from 27% in 2022 [More children score full marks in their times tables check - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Published 23/11/23

26. Wiltshire's position: Analysis of the Wiltshire performance in the Multiplication Tables will be provided as part of a wider standards report for Children Select in March 2024.

Generative artificial intelligence in education call for evidence **Call for evidence outcome**

27. We're seeking views on how generative artificial intelligence (AI) is being used across education in England, and the opportunities and risks it presents. Change made, added summary of responses [Generative artificial intelligence in education call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) updated 28/11/23

28. Wiltshire's position: This report will need to be analysed internally with any of the findings then disseminated accordingly.

How schools' narrow attainment gaps between ethnic groups **Research & Analysis**

29. A study to find out whether schools closing the ethnicity achievement gap have done so by focussing on ethnicity, or as a result of other approaches [How schools narrow attainment gaps between ethnic groups - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 30/11/23

30. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire's Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) helps schools secure good outcomes for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners, including pupils from Traveller ethnicities, from Foundation Stage 2 onwards. The service consists of:

- Bilingual Assistants - peripatetic Teaching Assistants who work alongside learners in the classroom and support with home/school contact
- Specialist TAs who work with Traveller children in school and help build strong home/school partnerships
- Advisory Teachers who support schools with raising their own capacity through advice and training, and who can assess learners and make recommendations about provision

Childcare expansion capital grant funding **Guidance**

31. Local authority funding to support the provision of new early years entitlement and wraparound places

[Childcare expansion capital grant funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) published 30/11/23

32. Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire has received a grant allocation of £1,106,833 and will be working with providers to maximise the number of places available to Wiltshire families.