

Coalition Changes – Update November 2013 to January 2014

Education reform: national curriculum

Primary Computing

1. Education Minister Elizabeth Truss has announced funding of £1.1 million for the British Computer Society (BCS) - the Chartered Institute for IT - to develop a computing readiness programme aimed specifically at primary school teachers with no prior experience of computer science. Children from:
 - the age of 5 will be taught what algorithms are and how they are used in digital devices - they will also learn how to write and test simple programs and to organise, manipulate and store digital content
 - age 7, pupils will be taught to understand computer networks including the internet, and how they can provide a range of services, such as the worldwide web
2. The project will provide online resources, in-school workshops, outreach activities and create local support groups within the Network of Teaching Excellence in Computer Science - reaching at least 20,000 teachers.
3. Computing will be a compulsory part of the national curriculum for schools in England at all key stages from September 2014, and computer science will be included in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) from next January.

Key Stage 4 English and Maths

4. The consultation regarding the programmes of study for English and mathematics at key stage 4 has been published. It will run until 3 February 2014.
5. The programme of study in mathematics at key stage 4 is more challenging. The content is closely aligned to GCSE content. More challenging content specifically for higher achieving students is explicitly identified. The proposals will provide better preparation for post-16 mathematics by providing foundations for advanced topics like calculus.
6. In English, the programme of study has been strengthened to ensure all pupils read a wide range of high-quality, challenging and classic English literature. There is a renewed focus on the reading of whole texts which should include at least one play by Shakespeare, works from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries and poetry since 1789, including Romantic poetry. The language requirement is also more demanding and pupils will be expected to speak fluently and use linguistic

and literary terminology effectively and confidently in their written and spoken English.

7. The programmes of study for English and mathematics will be introduced from September 2015, alongside first teaching of the new qualifications.

SEN reforms

8. The biggest transformation to SEN support for 30 years - currently making its way through Parliament - will give children and parents greater say over their personalised care and assistance, and put in place a new birth-to-25 system for children and young people with SEN. Wiltshire is one of the pathfinder areas trialling some of the changes. The DFE have collated findings from all the pathfinder pilots across the country and found that:
 - a. parents feel more empowered and supported and are happier with the services they are receiving, with 88% saying their views had been taken into consideration
 - b. professionals are overwhelmingly supportive of the new approaches and feel they bring about a more family-centred way of working
 - c. councils are gearing up for the introduction of the reforms in September 2014, with the majority laying the groundwork for the new system
9. The government has also announced a £70 million SEN reform grant which will be made available to councils as they prepare to implement these ambitious changes.

Special educational needs champions

10. More than 1,800 champions will be on hand from this September to help parents navigate the new special educational needs process following a funding boost. The £30 million will be used to recruit and train a pool of 'independent supporters' - champions drawn from independent voluntary, community and private organisations to help the families of children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) through the new process following comprehensive reforms to support. Council for Disabled Children will now trial the training, recruitment and funding allocation, which will conclude in the spring. They will then invite applications from private, voluntary and community sector organisations who believe they can offer independent supporters from within their ranks

Free School Meals

11. Following the announcement that every child in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools will receive a free school lunch, the government has confirmed how the project will be funded in the Autumn Statement.

12. The government will be providing revenue funding of £450 million in 2014 to 2015 and £635 million in 2015 to 2016 to the Department for Education (DfE) to fund this commitment. This is new money into the DfE budget.
13. It will also make £150 million of capital available to ensure that schools can build new kitchens or increase dining capacity where necessary. £70 million of this will be new money from the Treasury (HMT) and around £80 million will be from unspent DfE maintenance budgets.

Pupil premium funding 2014/15

14. From next year, primary FSM 'Ever 6' pupils will attract £1300 and £935 for secondary FSM 'Ever 6' pupils.
15. The looked after child premium will rise from £900 in 2013-14 to £1900 per pupil. Eligibility will be extended to include those who have been looked after for one day or more, as compared with the 6 months in care currently required. The role of the virtual school head will be enhanced to ensure that, as the 'corporate parent' of looked after children, the virtual school head works closely with schools to ensure the funding is used to maximum effect.
16. Children who have been adopted from care or leave care under a special guardianship or residence order will now attract a premium. This change recognises that the needs of those children who leave care do not change overnight. Schools will receive £1900 for each eligible pupil adopted from care who has been registered on the school census and the additional funding will enable schools to offer pastoral care as well as raising pupil attainment.
17. Children with parents in the armed forces will continue to be supported through the service child premium. In the 2014 to 2015 financial year, the service child premium will be set at £300 per pupil and the DFE are continuing to expand the protection for pupils previously attracting the service child premium since its introduction in April 2011 whose parents are no longer in the armed forces or where parents have divorced. These changes will mean an increase in the number of children eligible for the service premium from around 45,000 in 2011 to over 60,000 in 2014.
18. Initial estimates circulated by the DFE indicate the total pupil premium grant allocated across schools in Wiltshire will exceed £13 million in 2014-15.

School Funding allocations

19. In December the DFE announced funding allocations for 2014/15 for capital basic need funding (Wiltshire £3.9m), to implement the universal infant free school meals entitlement (Wiltshire £1.06m), Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and Education Services Grant (ESG). In addition, longer term capital basic need allocations for school places up to 2017 were published (Wiltshire 2015/16 £5.4m and 2016/17 £5.7m).
20. Part of DSG in 2014-15 revenue funding allocations is for early learning places for two-year-olds from lower income households. From 1 September 2013 early learning became a statutory entitlement for around 20% of two-year-olds across

England, which will extend to 40% of two-year-olds from September 2014. To deliver this, the government is today allocating £760 million to fund the extended programme in 2014-15 (Wiltshire £3.7m).

21. The underlying schools budget has been kept at “flat cash per pupil”. To protect schools from significant budget reductions, there continues to be a Minimum Funding Guarantee that ensures that no school sees more than a 1.5% per pupil reduction in 2014-15 budgets (excluding sixth form funding) compared with 2013-14 and before the Pupil Premium is added.

Academies Update

22. Number in Wiltshire as at beginning of January 2014:

Sponsored academies	10
Non-sponsored converter academies	34

23. Additions since last meeting:

- Christian Malford CofE Primary School (converter)
- Southbroom CofE Junior School (sponsored)
- Whitesheet CofE VA Primary School (sponsored)

Residential care reforms

24. The implementation of [residential care reforms](#) builds on the significant action the government took in 2013 to improve the quality of care and outcomes for all looked-after children and young people leaving care. The change to the regulations will come into force at the end of January with new rules making residential care safer and putting an end to unnecessary out-of-area placements for vulnerable children. The changes will result in much stricter scrutiny of councils' decisions about where children are placed. The Government is also:

- introducing rules so homes must tell councils when children move into and out of the area
- changing the regulations so new homes only open in safe areas, run by competent providers and ensuring homes already open in less safe areas evidence that they can keep children safe, or face closure
- improving the quality of care by requiring staff and managers in homes to be suitably qualified within a strict time frame
- working with Ofsted to strengthen their inspection and intervention powers so 'good' is the only acceptable standard, and unsafe homes close unless they can evidence swift improvement
- putting much greater information on the quality and location of children's homes into the public domain.

Children to stay with foster families until 21

25. All children in care will be able to stay with their foster families after they turn 18 following a £40 million funding boost over the next 3 years and a new legal duty on councils to provide support.

Adoption

26. The DFE have seen increases in the number of approved adopters and the number of adoptions since they introduced the Adoption Reform Grant (ARG) and have now decided to extend it into 2014 - providing £50 million to local authorities in recognition that they need to implement the changes in the Children and Families Bill based on the needs of their local communities.

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