

DfE updates and changes – June to July 2023

Early Analysis of English Hubs phonics attainment: 2021 to 2022 Research & Analysis

1. Research report presenting the analytical findings about the estimated impact of the English Hubs Programme on pupils' phonics attainment [Link](#) Published 16/05/23

2. Wiltshire's position: This report would correlate with our own evidence of the Ramsbury English Hub which has proven track record in the schools that engage with them on improving outcomes. Across the Local Authority area last year, we were a single % point below national in terms of phonics data against national but are expecting that this will improve this year.

England moves to fourth in international rankings for reading Press Release

3. England came fourth out of the 43 countries that tested children of the same age in the Progress International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) [Link](#) Published 16/05/23

4. Wiltshire's position: This information would align with our overall Wiltshire outcomes, where reading is a comparative strength in terms of our own data. This also dovetails into the previous commentary in relation to phonics, as having an effective phonics scheme and system ultimately impacts on reading outcomes as pupils progress through the system.

Finding a school place when relocating from hotel accommodation Guidance

5. Information for Afghan guests in the UK on obtaining a school place in England when relocating after leaving hotel/serviced accommodation [Link](#) Published 17/05/23

6. Wiltshire's position: This update provides generic information on how to apply for school places. The Wiltshire EMTAS team have been supporting the families due to leave the Wiltshire bridging hotel to apply for school places in their new locations.

Government to tackle post pandemic absence rates with new support News Story

7. Successful attendance programmes expanded by Government to get more children into school [Link](#) Published 18/05/23

8. Wiltshire's position: Government attendance advisors were introduced in 2021. In July 2023, Wiltshire will be welcoming DfE attendance advisor Sara Griffiths to work with us to evaluate the effectiveness of our implementation of the 2022 non-statutory guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance'.

A call for evidence on children missing education was launched by the DfE in May 2023. Wiltshire will contribute to this call for evidence by the closing date of 20th July 2023.

An invitation for schools and colleges to access quality assured mental health lead training-reminder

9. The Department for Education is offering eligible schools and colleges a grant of £1,200 to pay for training for senior mental health leads in educational settings.

The training will help embed an effective whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing, including:

- identifying mental health and wellbeing needs and monitoring the impact of support
- approaches to plan and lead change aligned to the work of designated safeguarding leads/special educational needs coordinators
- developing universal and targeted support offers
- engaging students/pupils and developing positive relationships with parents, families and carers

Mental health leads can choose from over 100 courses (beginner, intermediate and advanced levels) tailored to the needs of their settings. They can [register for grant funding to attend a mental health course](#) beginning before 31 March 2024. The grant can also be used to pay for supply cover to backfill the individual undertaking training, or for further support to sustain approaches to mental health and wellbeing.

Councils are encouraged to share this with schools in their areas.

10. Wiltshire's position: This information and opportunity has been shared through our various communication channels as an available offer to schools.

Wiltshire Council has delivered this training, on behalf of the DfE, to 132 Wiltshire schools. A total of 210 Wiltshire schools and colleges have so far attended SMHL training from all providers. The DfE have recorded that 188 Wiltshire settings that have claimed the grant of £1,200. SMHL grant take up comparison: National 58%, South West 65%, Wiltshire 79% (May 2023).

Next steps taken to ensure age-appropriate Relationships, Sex and Health Education **Press Release**

11. Leading experts in child safeguarding, health, teaching, curriculum development and equalities to contribute to review of the statutory guidance on Relationships, Sex and Health Education [Link](#)
Published 31/05/23

12. Wiltshire's position: This is a DfE update, as a Council we acknowledge the skills and expertise of those involved in the review process and look forward to the outcome.

Action for councils, schools and pupil referral units: mandatory updated suspension and permanent exclusion guidance **Statutory guidance**

13. On 25 May, the Department for Education published updated [statutory suspension and permanent exclusion guidance](#), and a separate [guide for parents, supporting them to navigate the school behaviour and exclusion process](#).

The updates underpin the [School Discipline \(Pupil Exclusions and Reviews\) \(Amendment and Transitional Provision\) \(England\) Regulations 2023](#) to allow head teachers to cancel exclusions if appropriate. They also allow school governing boards exclusion review and independent review panels to take place remotely, ensuring exclusions are conducted in a lawful, reasonable and fair way. These legislative changes will come into force in September.

Wiltshire's position: Wiltshire's guidance documents to schools are being updated in line with the changes outlined above and will be published on the Behaviour Support Service's Right Choice webpages in readiness for September when the changes come into force.

British Sign Language GCSE moves one step closer to the classroom **Press Release**

14. New GCSE will be the first of its kind and will teach students how to communicate through sign language [Link](#) published 15/06/23

15. Wiltshire's position: We retain a small team of advisory teachers who hold qualified teachers for the deaf status (QTHI) and who support school staff and young people with a hearing impairment (HI). We also have a primary and a secondary resource base provision for children with HI. This team will provide a response to the Government consultation which is currently running in relation to the introduction of this new GCSE and its proposed content.

Reducing school workload **Collection**

16. Support and practical resources for schools to help reduce workload, including the school workload reduction toolkit [Link](#) published 21/07/18 and last updated 15/06/23

Change made: Updated the 'Research and analysis' section by adding links to: 'Working lives of teachers and leaders – wave 1', 'Exploring school collaboration and workload reduction' and 'Teacher, school and post-16 institution surveys'. Removed the school snapshot surveys for winter 2018 and summer 2018.

17. Wiltshire's position: This link has been shared through the weekly newsletter that is circulated to all Head teachers in our Wiltshire Schools.