

Coalition Changes – Update November 2012 to March 2013

Choice of high-quality childcare

1. A new policy document "[More great childcare: Raising quality and giving parents more choice](#)" was published in January which sets out proposals to build a stronger and more professional early years workforce, and to drive quality through everything it does. It includes:
 - Raising the status and quality of the workforce
 - Freeing high quality providers to offer more places
 - Improving the regulatory regime
 - Giving more choice to parents

Package of measures for primary schools

2. New measures are being introduced to drive up standards. The moves are part of a [package of measures](#) designed to raise standards in primary schools, including among disadvantaged children:
 - The floor standard will go up from 2014 – primary schools where fewer than 65 per cent of pupils achieve the expected level (Level 4) in the 3Rs, and which do not achieve above average progress in these subjects, will be below the floor. The current floor standard requires schools to have 60 per cent of their pupils at level 4 or above in English and maths, plus the progress measures.
 - New data will be published by the Department for Education showing the proportion of primary children who achieve a "good" Level 4 in the 3Rs – those who are truly "secondary ready". This will be until the current system of levels is removed from 2016.
 - Schools judged by Ofsted to be neither good nor outstanding, and who are not closing the gap between their disadvantaged pupils and their other pupils, will be ordered to draw up action plans – alongside experts – on how they will spend their pupil premium money.
 - Summer school programme – which helps children make the transition from primary to secondary school – to be repeated this year.

Foreign languages in Primary Schools

3. The Department for Education's [consultation](#) around its proposal to make foreign languages compulsory for primary school pupils aged seven to 11 has received a

positive response. The Department for Education launched a consultation on a proposal to give primary schools the freedom to choose to teach any one of seven foreign languages – the modern languages of French, Spanish, German, Italian and Mandarin and the classical languages of Latin and ancient Greek. This ran from 16 November to 16 December.

Intensive classes for pupils who have fallen behind in literacy and maths

4. Secondary state schools in England will receive £500 per pupil to help every year 7 pupil who did not reach the expected level in literacy and maths when they finished primary school. The 'catch-up premium' will provide intensive tuition for almost 110,000 pupils who have failed to reach the expected level of literacy and maths skills by the time they move to secondary school. Schools will have freedom to decide how best to use the [catch-up premium](#), but examples could include:
 - small-group tuition supported by new classroom materials and resources, which could take place at lunchtimes or after school
 - holiday support to deliver intensive catch-up over a short period
 - additional services and materials to add to those provided by the school, such as tutor services or proven computer-based learning or online support

Armed forces personnel to improve educational achievement

5. Education Secretary Michael Gove announced £1.9 million funding for [four projects](#) which employ former armed forces personnel to improve educational achievement among pupils disengaged with education. He said that the four organisations would support the Government's commitment to improve education for all pupils.
6. They will instill teamwork, discipline and leadership in pupils through mentoring, outward bound activities and other group exercises, and therefore improve their self-belief, attainment and behaviour, both inside and outside of the classroom. The four projects are: Commando Joes' in Cheshire; Challenger Troop in Tunbridge Wells, Kent; SkillForce in Newcastle; and Knowsley Skills Academy in Prescott.

Special educational needs trial extended

7. Trials to help children and young adults with special educational needs are being extended by another 18 months. Wiltshire is one of 20 areas where the reforms are being tested before they become law.

Clinical commissioning groups duties for children with SEN

8. Clinical commissioning groups (groups of GPs who plan local health services) have a [new duty](#) which will mean that they will by law have to secure services in education, health and care plans for children and young adults. This will include specialist services like physiotherapy, and speech and language therapy.
9. At present councils have a legal duty to make sure that children and young adults with the most complex needs get the support they need to develop and become as independent as possible later in life. However, some parents have complained that health services can fall between the gaps. The duty will help to ensure that councils, health professionals and volunteers come together to organise services, and set out a clear expectation of what parents, children and young adults with special educational needs will get.

Freedom to pay good teachers more

10. Schools will from this September get more freedom over how they pay their teachers. This follows recommendations from an independent review body which last year called on the Government to link teachers' pay more closely to their performance. Evidence shows that improving the quality of teaching is essential to driving up standards in schools. From September, a more flexible [national pay framework](#) for teachers will come into effect. It will:
 - end pay increases based on length of service – currently virtually all full time classroom teachers on the main pay scale automatically progress to the next pay point;
 - link all teachers' pay progression to performance, based on annual appraisals – already the case for some teachers who are on a higher pay scale;
 - abolish mandatory pay points within the pay scales for classroom teachers to give schools greater freedom on how much teachers are paid. They would remain in place for reference only in the main pay scale to guide career expectations for new teachers entering the profession; and
 - retain the higher pay bands for London and fringe areas.

Copyright license deal

11. Schools are set to benefit after the Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) as the Department for Education have signed a three-year deal on the copyright licensing for schools. From April 2013, the Department will manage a national CLA Schools License for all state maintained schools in England. Schools need this license in order to copy materials from books, magazines and websites legally. In addition, the deal will also include a new license from the Music Publishers Association to cover copying of items such as printed sheet music. Local authorities are still involved in the maintenance of other copyright licensing arrangements for schools - Educational Recording Agency (ERA), Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL), Performing Right Society (PRS).

Review of 2013–14 School Funding Arrangements

12. The DFE have published a [“Review of 2013–14 School Funding Arrangements”](#) which is a document summarizing how the 2013-14 reforms have been implemented and considers some specific issues that have been raised. It seeks views from a range of interested parties including local authorities, headteachers, principals and governors. The review will also consider whether any small changes are needed in 2014-15 in order to address some of the issues raised. Consultation closes on 26th March 2013 and the Council is making a response.

Academies Update

			Date opened
	Sponsored academies:		
1	The Wellington Academy	Salisbury	September 2009
2	Sarum Academy	Salisbury	September 2010
3	The Clarendon College	Trowbridge	December 2012
4	Corsham Regis Primary	Corsham	January 2013
	Non-sponsored academies:		
5	Hardenhuish	Chippenham	September 2010
6	Lavington	Lavington	January 2011
7	South Wilts	Salisbury	January 2011
8	Bishop Wordsworth's	Salisbury	March 2011
9	Corsham Primary School	Corsham	April 2011
10	The Corsham School	Corsham	April 2011
11	Sheldon School	Chippenham	April 2011
12	Pewsey Vale	Pewsey	July 2011
13	Wootton Bassett	Wootton Bassett	July 2011
14	Kingdown School	Warminster	August 2011
15	St Laurence	Bradford on Avon	August 2011
16	Malmesbury	Malmesbury	August 2011
17	The Holy Trinity School	Great Cheverell	September 2011
18	Saint Edmund's Catholic Academy	Calne	September 2011
19	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Devizes	September 2011
20	St Augustine's Catholic School	Trowbridge	September 2011
21	Springfields School	Calne	September 2011
22	The John Bentley	Calne	November 2011
23	St Edmunds CE Girls School	Salisbury	February 2012
24	The John of Gaunt School	Trowbridge	April 2012
25	The Mead Academy Trust	Trowbridge	May 2012
26	Holy Trinity School,	Calne	May 2012
27	By Brook Valley Primary	Nr Chippenham	May 2012
28	Woodford Valley	Nr Salisbury	June 2012
29	Easton Royal Primary	Nr Pewsey	September 2012
30	Devizes School	Devizes	September 2012
31	St John's School Marlborough	Marlborough	September 2012
32	The Manor Primary	Melksham	September 2012
33	Rowde Primary	Nr Devizes	January 2013
34	Wansdyke	Devizes	February 2013

School Dashboard

13. Ofsted has launched a new online school data dashboard which provides information on the performance of individual schools over the last three years, including:

- attainment at key stages 1, 2 and 4
- attendance rates
- the gap between disadvantaged pupils and other pupils
- how the school compares to other schools in the local area

14. The dashboard is designed to make it easier for school governors, parents and other members of the public to check the performance of schools in their area.

14 to 16-year-olds in Further education colleges

15. Further education (FE) colleges will be able to enrol 14- to 16-year-olds who wish to study high-quality vocational qualifications from September 2013. FE colleges will be able to set up their own '14 to 16 centres'. [The new centres](#) will offer a combination of high quality vocational and academic subjects and aim to attract students of all abilities who want early access to practical and technical education.

16. Currently, 14- to 16-year-olds can only attend FE colleges if they are released by their school, or if special arrangements are made with a local authority. This new freedom will allow FE colleges to enrol pupils directly and receive Government funding.

17. Only FE colleges which meet certain criteria will be able to enrol and receive Government funding for 14- to 16-year-olds from next year. Colleges must:

- Have been rated good or above at their last Ofsted inspection. If a college was rated as satisfactory, and their last inspection was a number of years ago, they will have to show evidence of improved performance over the past four years.
- Conduct an assessment of their capability and readiness using the 'readiness to open checklist' published by the Government today.
- Have their finances in good order.

Programme to get young people ready for work

18. The new Traineeships programme, which could be in place by September 2013, would provide young people aged 16 to 24 with a tailor-made package of support that will give them the confidence, skills and experience to compete in the labour market with more experienced adults. A Traineeship could be seen as a crucial stepping stone to an Apprenticeship – a job with training to industry standards – or other jobs, for those young people who currently lack the necessary skills.

19. Employers, education and training providers, and young people have been invited to comment on the Government's proposals to help develop the new

programme. The [discussion paper](#) sets out the Government's vision for Traineeships, which would include:

- Focused work preparation training – e.g. CV writing, interview preparation, job searching, inter-personal skills.
- High-quality work experience – giving young people real-life work placement to enhance their skills and confidence.
- English and maths – for young people who have not achieved a GCSE grade C or equivalent or better.

Youth Contract opened up to help more young people who are NEET

20. An extra 15,500 16- and 17-year-olds are now eligible for tailored help to return to work with training, school or college after the Department for Education extended the eligibility criteria for the Youth Contract. [The scheme](#) for those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is part of the Government's Youth Contract, which was launched in July 2012. It originally targeted funding to the most disengaged group of teenagers – those with no GCSEs at A*-C – through a payment-by-results system.

Working smarter to improve child protection

21. Plans to allow Ofsted to share the names and addresses of children's homes with the police and other bodies have been launched. Ofsted already share their register of the names and addresses of children's homes with local authorities on a monthly basis but the current rules do not allow them to share this register on a regular basis with the police. The plans will allow local police forces to:

- work more proactively to protect the welfare of children living in children's homes in their area;
- prevent offenders targeting children living in children's homes; and
- help police to protect children missing from care from harm.

Help for children in care to achieve better school results

22. To prevent the attainment gap between children in care and their peers that often occurs, the Government intends to enshrine in law a Virtual School Head for every council. Their primary focus will be to raise the educational attainment of children in care by getting them the support they need to succeed at school and in later life. Virtual school heads will:

- work with head teachers to find out what children in care need, such as extra tuition or emotional support, so that they can meet their highest possible level of educational achievement;
- act like a 'pushy parent' providing support and challenge to senior directors and lead members amongst others, to make sure children in care get quality learning and support; and

- ensure children in care, as well as their foster or other carers, are actively involved in deciding about and delivering their education.

23. Wiltshire has had a Virtual school head for a number of years.

Delegation of functions for care leavers

24. The DFE are consulting on the proposal to allow all local authorities to delegate some decision making and tasks around children in care and care leavers to external social work providers. The law that already allows this to happen expires this November. So a change to legislation will let local authorities who are already using external providers to continue to do so, and will give all local authorities greater flexibility around how to look after children in their care. The [consultation](#) is open until 28 February 2012.

New drive to help children find adoptive families

25. The Prime Minister has announced [a new package of support](#) for people who want to adopt. This includes:

- looking at ways to give adopters a more active role in the adoption process, with the chance to make a connection with a child in advance and play a greater role in finding the right match.
- ensuring more paid leave for people adopting a child – bringing adoption pay and leave in line with that of biological parents when it comes to maternity and paternity leave, giving parents and children more time to bond in those early days;
- giving adoptive parents the right to take time off work to meet the children they are set to adopt before they move in with family, helping to make the transition to a new family be as smooth as possible;
- trialling the idea of personal budgets, where adoptive parents can have more choice and control over the type and provider of adoption support, that would otherwise be allocated by councils;
- extending the free early education for two year-olds to adopted children from 2014 and giving them priority school access from 2013;
- launching a new helpline in the New Year, with the phone lines manned by adopters, with first-hand experience;
- looking to next year, we will be launching a National Gateway for Adoption, a new 'one-stop-shop' online service, for the first stages of the adoption process, making it easy for those thinking about adoption to find out more.

26. The Government have also published a new strategy, [Further Action on Adoption: Finding more Loving Homes](#), which sets out proposals for the next steps in tackling delay so that more children can benefit more quickly from being adopted into a loving home. The document describes a number of changes to

give approved adopters a more active role in the process of finding a child, and a package of improvements to the support available to adoptive families.

27. With this strategy comes a one-off grant to each local authority to support the recruitment of adopters and tackle backlogs of children waiting to be adopted. It also comes with the message that local authorities will need to prove the ability of their adoption services or face services being outsourced, possibly to larger regional adoption agencies. The grant for Wiltshire is £1,070,700.

The Children and Families Bill

28. The [Children and Families Bill](#), was published 5th February 2013. It includes provisions on the following reforms:
- adoption reform: the government wants to reform the system so that more children can benefit more quickly from being adopted into a loving home.
 - children in care: educational achievement for children in care is not improving fast enough. The Bill will require every council to have a 'virtual school head' to champion the education of children in the authority's care, as if they all attended the same school.
 - shared parental leave: the government will move away from the current old-fashioned and inflexible arrangements and create a new, more equal system which allows both parents to keep a strong link to their workplace.
 - flexible working: the government wants to remove the cultural expectation that flexible working only has benefits for parents and carers, allowing individuals to manage their work alongside other commitments. This will improve the UK labour market by providing more diverse working patterns.
 - family justice: the government wants to remove delays and ensure that the children's best interests are at the heart of decision making.
 - special educational needs: the government is radically reforming the system so that it extends from birth to 25, giving children, young people and their parents greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met.
 - childcare reform: the government is reforming childcare to ensure the whole system focuses on providing safe, high-quality care and early education for children. The Bill introduces childminder agencies which will enable more flexible childminding and removing bureaucracy so that it is easier for schools to offer wraparound care.
 - children's commissioner: the Bill makes the Children's Commissioner more effective by clarifying his or her independence from government with a remit to 'protect and promote children's rights'.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Corporate Director

Report author: Lynda Cox, Head of Performance and Information Management,
Children's Services.

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