

Coalition Changes – Update June to September 2013

Childcare qualifications

1. The National College of Teaching and Leadership has set out more [detail](#) on what will be expected of the new early years teachers and early years educators.
 - Early years teachers will be graduate leaders in early years settings on a par with school teachers. They will need to meet new standards which closely mirror the standards for classroom teachers, and trainees will need to take the same skills tests taken by classroom teacher trainees. These measures will raise the status of the profession and help attract high-quality graduates into early education.
 - Early years educators will hold A level equivalent qualifications and provide support to early years teachers.

More affordable childcare

2. [‘More affordable childcare’](#) sets out the government’s plans to help working parents access the childcare they need when they need it, in particular by:
 - helping schools to offer affordable after school and holiday care, either alone or working with private and voluntary providers
 - enabling nurseries to expand by reducing red tape and removing planning restrictions
 - ensuring that child minders and nurseries that are good or outstanding can automatically receive government funding for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds
 - supporting parents to access more informal care

Tax-Free Childcare scheme

3. A consultation giving detail on a Tax-free Childcare scheme [has been published by the government](#), who are now asking parents for their views on how one of the biggest government programmes to help working families with childcare costs should be run. The consultation sets out new detail on eligibility for the scheme, including stating that parents who are not working because they are on parental leave or because they are carers will be able to claim.
4. The document also proposes that the scheme will be aligned to the school year so that children in the same class are treated consistently. The scheme aims to start in Autumn 2015 and will be worth up to £1,200 per child per year. Once fully up and running, the scheme will be available to up to 2.5 million families and will save a typical working family with two children under 12 up to £2,400 per year.

Raising ambitions and standards for primary schools

5. A consultation setting out proposals to reform the way primary schools are held to account and raise standards for all has been published and will close on 17 October 2013. To help schools reach this ambitious goal, the biggest ever rise in the pupil premium for primary schools has been announced. It will be increased to £1,300 per disadvantaged primary school pupil in 2014/15, up from £900 per child this year. This will help to make sure that more pupils are able to achieve higher standards. The consultation document outlines proposals for:
- higher floor standards.
 - updated tests for 11-year-olds, in line with the higher expectations of the new national curriculum. The tests would be in maths; reading; and spelling, punctuation and grammar. The science test for a sample of pupils would also remain.
 - higher expectations of what pupils should achieve.
 - new school-led systems of assessing pupil performance. In line with the freedom to develop their own school curricula, and the removal of the levels system, schools will be given the freedom to design their own systems of measuring pupil performance, and reporting this to parents.
 - a new reporting method which would see each pupil compared against their peers nationally. Each pupil would be placed in 10% bands, or deciles. Pupils' positions will only be made available to parents and schools.
 - a new benchmark. A baseline assessment is needed to measure the progress that has been made by 11-year-olds.

Reforming qualifications and the curriculum to better prepare pupils for life after school

6. The DFE aim to introduce a curriculum that gives individual schools and teachers greater freedom to teach in the way they know works and that ensures that all pupils acquire a core of essential knowledge in English, mathematics and sciences. They also plan to make GCSEs and A levels more rigorous to prepare students properly for life after school. This will address the fact that employers, universities and colleges are often dissatisfied with school leavers' literacy and numeracy even though the proportion of young people achieving good grades has gone up in recent years. Results from consultation together with details about the [proposed way](#) forward were published in July. Changes are implemented from September 2014.

Reforming SEN

7. The proposals to reform provision for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) continue to be defined through the publication of "draft provisions". These provide for:

- new education, health and care plans which will ensure more streamlined and integrated support for children, young people and families than the current statement and learning difficulty assessment
- a new duty for joint commissioning which will require local authorities and health bodies to take joint responsibility for providing services
- a requirement on local authorities to publish a local offer of services for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs
- new protections for young people aged 16-25 in further education and a stronger focus on preparing them for adulthood
- parents and young people, for the first time, to be entitled to have a personal budget, extending their choice and control over their support
- further education colleges for the first time and all academies, including free schools, to have the same duties as maintained schools to safeguard the education of children and young people with SEN

Free school lunch for every child in infant school

8. Every child in reception, year 1 and year 2 in state-funded schools will receive a free school lunch from September 2014. The government will fund schools in England to provide every child in reception, year 1 and year 2 with a hot, nutritious meal at lunch time. The aim is to improve academic attainment and save families money – over the course of a year the average family spends £437 on school lunches per child. At the same time, the government will extend free school meals to disadvantaged students in further education and sixth form colleges. Free school meals are currently available only for eligible students at school sixth forms.

School funding

9. In June, the DFE published a [document](#) explaining how it will maintain momentum towards a national funding formula, ensuring that more money is targeted to pupils and proposing a number of changes to local funding formulae for 2014/15. Local authorities will be required to allocate a minimum of 80% of their funding on the basis of pupil led factors and there will also be a minimum amount that each pupil should receive. Wiltshire is already compliant with these requirements.
10. From April 2014, local authorities will be able to target funding for schools in sparsely populated areas. The document also sets out new flexibilities to provide different amounts of funding to cover the fixed costs of primary and secondary schools. These new flexibilities will ensure local authorities can act to take account of varying fixed costs between different types of school. Schools that merge will also be able to keep some of their funding for fixed costs for at least the first year. Wiltshire Schools Forum has considered the proposed changes and is consulting with schools on options to vary the lump sum for fixed costs between primary and secondary schools. It is not proposed to introduce the new sparsity factor in Wiltshire.
11. Local authorities will be required to target additional funding to deprived pupils in addition to the pupil premium. We are also making changes to ensure that those

pupils who are less likely to attain well at the end of the primary or secondary phase are identified and attract additional funding.

Academies Update

12. Number in Wiltshire as at the 1 September 2013:

Sponsored academies	8
Non-sponsored converter academies	33

13. Additions since last meeting:

Malmesbury Primary School	Malmesbury	June 2013
Dauntsey's Aided Primary School	West Lavington, Devizes	August 2013
Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Primary School	Nr Downton	September 2013

New 'tech levels'

14. Exam boards will need to demonstrate their qualifications' quality by getting sign-up from trusted employers or higher education institutions:

- Vocational qualifications which lead to recognised occupations (in engineering, IT, accounting or hospitality, for example) will need public support from professional bodies, or 5 employers registered with Companies House, to be included in performance tables. These 5 must represent the breadth of the relevant sector. These qualifications will be known as tech levels.
- Vocational qualifications not directly linked to an occupation but providing broader study of a vocational area will need the explicit backing of 3 universities. These will be known as applied general qualifications.

15. Only those level 3, or advanced, qualifications which have the support of businesses or universities will be included in new-look 16 to 19 performance tables from 2016, for young people taking courses from September 2014. The government also confirmed that to count in the 2016 tables, both tech level and applied general qualifications will need to be able to demonstrate what they lead to - be it a job, apprenticeship, or further study, such as university - and be of sufficient size. Applied general qualifications need to be at least the equivalent size of an AS level. Tech levels need to be at least the size of an A level. All qualifications will need to meet further quality requirements to be counted in the performance tables from 2018 onwards (for first teaching in September 2016).

New programmes for employers to take on young disabled people

16. Young people who are disabled will be given help to find sustainable paid employment through [a new Supported Internship programme and a new Traineeship programme](#).
17. The Department for Education funded Supported Internships will offer specialised employment-focused study programmes for young people aged 16 to 24 with complex learning difficulties and disabilities. Offered through further education colleges, they will help trainees learn from expert career coaches while doing real jobs for a minimum of 6 months.
18. The new mainstream Traineeships programme will give 16 to 24 year olds the workplace experience and job skills that employers require and will be open to disabled young people with less complex needs. The Traineeships programme will be available from August 2013.

Improving safeguarding for looked after children

19. On 25 June 2013, the DFE opened [consultation](#) to amend the Care Planning, Placement Planning and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010. Amendments are planned to ensure that where looked after children are placed out of authority in distant placements they are effectively safeguarded and their welfare is promoted. Consultation closed on 17 September.

Quality Care for vulnerable children

20. A fundamental overhaul of children's residential care to tackle system-wide failings was announced by central government. The [proposed reforms](#) will lead to a much sharper focus on transparency, a drive for higher quality in care homes and stricter measures to hold local authorities (LAs) and care homes to account for their decisions.
21. The plans are part of a package of reforms which demand much better decision making from LAs about where children are placed. The process by which LAs access reports has been clarified, so that councils are able quickly and easily to access information about the homes in their area, and have it regularly updated. The DFE are working with Ofsted to toughen up its inspection and intervention powers – removing the 'adequate' judgement and replacing it with 'requires improvement', and introducing new rules so they give an 'amber' rating if a home is inadequate. If it doesn't improve within a specified time limit, it will be given a 'red' rating and close.

New £19.3 million support fund for adoptive parents

22. Adoptive parents will benefit from new funding worth £19.3 million to access the best possible care for children. The [Adoption Support Fund](#) will pay for therapeutic services - such as cognitive therapy, play and music therapy, and intensive family support - helping children recover from their previous

experiences, bond with their adoptive families and settle into their new lives. The government will shortly begin piloting the fund with a number of local authorities. This trial phase will consider how best to design the fund, including how to ensure that the fund is accessible to adopters and how to best incentivise local authorities to invest in the fund. The Fund will be rolled out nationally in 2015.

23. The fund will represent a new approach to how adoption support is delivered. Over time, the government wants to see local authorities, adoption agencies and other organisations contributing to the fund, ensuring that long-term provision of adoption support becomes self-sustaining.

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