

Coalition Changes – Update March to May 2014

Children and Families Act 2014 gains royal assent

1. The [Children and Families Act 2014](#) takes forward the coalition government's commitment to improve services for vulnerable children and support strong families. It reinforces wider reforms to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what their background. A summary of the content of the 2013 Bill that informs the Act is attached as an appendix to this report.
2. The act will reform the systems for adoption, looked-after children, family justice and special educational needs. It will introduce changes to support the welfare of children. It will encourage growth in the childcare sector, introduce a new system of shared parental leave and ensure children in England have a strong advocate for their rights.
3. The provisions in the act span the responsibilities of the Department for Education, the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Department for Work and Pensions, and the Department of Health.

Reformed GCSE and A level content

4. In November of last year, the Department for Education published details of revised content for GCSEs in English and mathematics, for first teaching from September 2015. Revised content for GCSEs in science, history, geography and languages, which will be taught in schools from September 2016 is now also available.
5. A number of arts-based subjects are to be reformed as rigorous, demanding and world-class new GCSEs and A levels for first teaching from September 2016. At GCSE level, they are art and design, music, drama, and dance. Five other subjects - citizenship, computer science, design and technology, PE, and religious studies - will also be reformed on this timetable.
6. Revised content for A levels in English literature, English language, English literature and language, biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, history, economics, business, computer science, art and design and sociology has also been published, for first teaching from September 2015.
7. Alongside these announcements, Ofqual is today setting out its decisions on how these new GCSEs and A levels should be assessed - with linear assessment rather than modules, and a greater focus on exams rather than controlled assessment.

Safeguarding guidance for schools and colleges

8. Updated statutory [safeguarding guidance](#) for schools and colleges - 'Keeping children safe in education' has been published. Effective immediately, it has been sent to all schools and colleges and replaces 'Safeguarding children and safer recruitment in education (2006)'. Content includes:
 - Safeguarding information for staff
 - The responsibilities of governing bodies
 - Safer recruitment
 - Handling of allegations against staff

Careers guidance

9. Revised statutory guidance, "Careers guidance and inspiration in schools", which will be effective from September 2014 has been published. The guidance sets a clear framework for the provision of advice and guidance, giving schools clarity on the required approach to ensure that expectations are set high, and all young people can access the support they need to understand and navigate an ambitious range of career options.
10. The guidance emphasizes the need to provide pupils with direct experience of the world of work, a clear view of the labour market and a good understanding of progression routes through education, including apprenticeships and university. The guidance highlights the benefits of pupils having face-to-face discussions to explore career ideas with a range of people including alumni, careers advisers, coaches, mentors and other inspiring individuals.

School Funding

11. The government has consulted (13 March – 30 April 2014) on school funding through their paper "[Fairer School Funding](#)" which sets out the Department for Education's proposal to allocate an additional £350m in 2015-16, to increase the per-pupil budgets for the least fairly funded local areas. The proposal will mean that in 2015-16, every local area will attract a minimum level of funding for its pupils and schools, making the distribution of funding to local areas fairer whilst ensuring that no area receives a cut to its per-pupil budget. The consultation invited views on how to set these minimum funding levels, and how to distribute the additional £350 million funding. Based on the illustrative figures included in the consultation it is expected that Wiltshire would benefit from this additional funding although any final allocation would be based on October 2014 pupil numbers so the amount of additional funding is not yet known. The results of the consultation and the department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website in summer 2014.

School accountability

12. To help all parents and students to compare schools and colleges, the government will require all schools and colleges to publish the key information for primary, secondary and 16 to 19 phases on their websites in a standard format. This information will clearly show the progress that students make, their attainment and how well they do in English and mathematics.

Primary

- the standard for success for primary schools is being reset. Expectations are currently too low (level 4c in English and mathematics). In 2012, fewer than half the pupils who had only just reached this expected standard went on to achieve 5 good GCSEs. Under the new system, schools will be expected to support at least 85% of their pupils to achieve a new higher standard (closer to the present 4b level). With the continued improvement in teaching, the sharper focus of the new curriculum and increased funding, results should rise.
- To judge schools' progress more fairly, a new assessment taken during reception will be introduced as the baseline. This will sit within teachers' broader ongoing assessments of children's development and progress throughout reception. The reception baseline will be used to assess schools' progress for children who start reception in September 2016 and beyond. Schools that choose not to use an approved baseline assessment from 2016 will be judged on the 85% attainment standard alone.
- From September 2016, the early years foundation stage (EYFS) profile will no longer be compulsory. The EYFS will continue to be statutory and the basis for Ofsted inspection of early year settings including children in a school nursery and reception classes, thereby ensuring children receive a broad education and are able to learn and thrive in school.

Secondary

- Secondary schools will show pupils' progress from age 11 to 16 (compared to others with the same results at age 11); what their pupils' average grade is across 8 subjects; what proportion of their pupils achieve at least a C in English and maths; and what proportion of their pupils achieve the EBacc.

16 to 19

- New, fairer minimum standards for 16 to 19 providers will be introduced. Wherever data allows it progress measures will be used. This will apply to academic and applied general qualifications. Where the data is not robust enough, a combined completion and attainment measure will be used. 5 headline measures of performance for all 16 to 19 providers will be introduced to give a broader picture of educational outcomes than attainment alone. These headline measures include:

- progress measures
- attainment measures
- retention measures
- English and mathematics progress measures for those who did not achieve good grades at age 16
- destination measures

Headteacher standards review

13. Many governing bodies use the current standards - last reviewed in 2004 - to inform headteacher recruitment and performance assessment. The review will consider best practice internationally, call for expert advice and evidence, and engage with teachers and leaders. It will aim to establish a set of standards for headteachers that:

- are unequivocal, clear and easy to understand
- can be used to assess the performance of headteachers
- steer the professional development of both existing and aspiring headteachers
- are designed to inspire confidence in headteachers
- focus primarily on the key elements of high-quality school and system leadership

14. The review, including draft revised standards, will report to the Secretary of State for Education in the summer, with the intention of publishing standards in the autumn.

Priority School Building Programme (PSBP)

15. The government has announced that as part of capital expenditure over the next spending review period from 2015 to 2021, it will fund a second phase of the Priority School Building Programme, with a value of around £2 billion. The original Priority School Building Programme worked on the basis of the condition of the whole school site. They will now refine this to look at targeting individual school buildings, as well as whole school rebuilds where this is appropriate, so that the DFE can focus much more tightly on addressing specific issues in the estate.

Academies Update

16. Number in Wiltshire as at beginning of May 2014:

Sponsored academies	11
Non-sponsored converter academies	36

17. Additions since last meeting.

Netheravon All Saints VA CofE Primary School	Apr-14
Pewsey Primary School	Apr-14
Zouch Primary School	Apr-14

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