

Coalition Changes – Update Nov 2014 to Jan 2015

School admissions code

1. [Statutory guidance](#)¹ has been released detailing changes made in the new version of the Schools Admissions Code, which came into force on 19 December. There have been two changes of substance and a number of minor amendments designed to improve the clarity of the document without altering its intended effect. The significant changes are:
 - To allow schools to give priority to applicants eligible for the Pupil Premium; and
 - To bring forward the timetable for determining admissions arrangements so that objections can be resolved by the Schools Adjudicator before the start of the admissions round.
2. There is additional [advice](#)² on using the pupil premium, service premium or early years pupil premium oversubscription criteria in school admissions, as well as updated [advice](#)³ on the admission of summer born children.
3. The final version of the new Code contains wording different from the consultation draft in a small number of places. Most of these make no difference to the intended effect of the Code but one, relating to 'out of age' admissions, will require an amendment to most, if not all, admissions arrangements in the forthcoming round.

Standards for school food in England

4. This [advice](#)⁴ outlines the requirements to provide food to registered pupils. It also includes information on the School Food Plan, the provision of milk and the free fruit and vegetables scheme. The new standards include:
 - 1 or more portions of vegetables or salad as an accompaniment every day
 - at least 3 different fruits, and 3 different vegetables each week
 - an emphasis on wholegrain foods in place of refined carbohydrates
 - an emphasis on making water the drink of choice:
 - limiting fruit juice portions to 150mls
 - restricting the amount of added sugars or honey in other drinks to 5%
 - no more than 2 portions a week of food that has been deep fried, batter coated, or breadcrumb coated
 - no more than 2 portions of food which include pastry each week

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/using-the-pupil-premium-or-service-premium-in-admissions>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standards-for-school-food-in-england>

School exclusion

5. [Statutory guidance](#)⁵ for maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units on the exclusion of pupils has been released. It replaces the document of the same name published in September 2012 and applies to exclusions from 5 January 2015.
6. The overall legislation governing the exclusion process remains unchanged. Regulations have been amended to clarify that governing bodies' duty to arrange education from the sixth day of a fixed period exclusion would be triggered by consecutive fixed period exclusions totalling more than five days.
7. Statutory guidance has been updated in a small number of areas, in particular to provide greater confidence to headteachers on their use of exclusion and greater clarity to independent review panels and governing bodies on their consideration of exclusion decisions.

National curriculum framework for key stages 1 to 4

8. This [statutory guidance](#)⁶ contains the full national curriculum framework, including programmes of study and attainment targets for key stages 1 to 4. All maintained schools in England must be teaching the programmes of study for key stage 1 to 3 from September 2014, and key stage 4 from September 2016.

Technical and vocational qualifications for 14- to 19-year-olds

9. The DfE have published [guidance](#)⁷ listing the technical and vocational qualifications approved for teaching from September 2015 and reporting in 2017 performance tables. These documents include:
 - 2 new qualification categories:
 - technical awards, for reporting in the 2017 key stage 4 performance tables
 - technical certificates, for reporting in the 2017 16 to 19 performance tables
 - the second annual list of qualifications in the tech level category, for reporting in the 2017 16 to 19 performance tables
 - the second annual list of qualifications in the applied general qualifications category, for reporting in the 2017 16 to 19 performance tables.
10. Each qualification includes a link to a 'purpose statement' to help students decide whether the qualification meets their needs. Each qualification for 16- to 19-year olds also includes a link to letters of support from employers and universities.

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-exclusion>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-framework-for-key-stages-1-to-4>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-and-vocational-qualifications-for-14-to-19-year-olds>

Ofsted inspection of LA school improvement functions – revised Framework

11. The revised [Ofsted framework](#)⁸ for the inspection of local authority arrangements for supporting school improvement has come into force with immediate effect. The previous Framework was published in May 2013, following consultation, and withdrawn without notice in late May 2014. There were 13 inspections under the old framework, including two re-inspections. Nine of the inspections resulted in a judgement of '*ineffective*' and four in a judgement of '*effective*'.
12. The most important changes in the new Framework are that Focused School Inspections, where a number of schools in a local authority are inspected over a short period, have been brought within the Framework, and that the single word judgement has been replaced by a narrative judgement. A new criterion for selection for this risk-based inspection is that pupils eligible for the pupil premium achieve less well than pupils not eligible for the pupil premium nationally. And reports will assess the impact of the local authority's strategy to narrow attainment gaps.

DfE Consultation: Revisions to working together to safeguard children

13. The DfE is seeking views on changes to the statutory guidance [Working together to safeguard children](#)⁹. The revisions include 3 major changes and some small updates and clarifications. The three proposed changes being consulted on are:
 - the referral of allegations against those who work with children;
 - notifiable incidents involving the care of a child; and
 - the definition of serious harm for the purposes of serious case reviews.

Sexual exploitation of children – Ofsted report

14. Ofsted has published [report](#)¹⁰ of a thematic inspection to evaluate the effectiveness of local authorities' current responses to child sexual exploitation. Inspectors found that local arrangements to tackle sexual exploitation are often underdeveloped, and leadership lacking. Some areas have only begun to address the issue strategically within the last 12 months, despite statutory guidance issued more than five years ago. The report raises issues of continuing concern to local authorities and their partners as they make up ground in formulating a more effective response to child sexual exploitation.

DfE consultation: Young carers' draft regulations

15. The DfE is consulting on [new regulations](#)¹¹ for young carers. The Young Carers' (Needs Assessments) (England) Regulations will come into force on 1 April 2015 and will put into effect Section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014, under which local authorities in England must assess whether young carers within their area have needs for support and, if so, what those needs are. The draft regulations set out how this must be done.

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ofsted-inspections-of-local-authority-arrangements-for-supporting-school-improvement>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-exploitation-of-children-ofsted-thematic-report>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/young-carers-draft-regulations>

Academies Update

16. Number in Wiltshire as at beginning of January 2015:

Sponsored academies	14
Non-sponsored converter academies	43

17. New academies in January:

The Avenue Primary School
Wyndham Park Infants'
St Mark's C of E (VA) Junior
Exeter House Special School

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