

**Wiltshire Council**

**Children Select Committee**

**25 October 2022**

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## **DfE Changes - October 2022**

### **What maintained schools must publish online**

1. Page updated to show what maintained schools must or should publish in the 2022 to 2023 academic year. Includes new sections on 'School uniforms' and 'School opening hours', and changes elsewhere [Link](#) (updated 05/09/22)

2. Wiltshire's position:

School leaders will need to reflect the changes in their websites noting the expectation that all mainstream state-funded schools should provide a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023. This will be communicated to schools.

### **Check early years qualifications**

3. Find out if a person's qualifications allow them to work in an early years setting, and if you can include them in staff: child ratios [Link](#) (updated 05/09/22)

4. Wiltshire's position:

The guidance on staff qualifications has had some minor name/title changes:

Titles 'Qualifications achieved in England' has been updated to 'Qualifications achieved in the United Kingdom' and 'Qualifications achieved outside England' has been changed to 'Qualifications achieved outside the United Kingdom'

This will add clarity to the providers and enable them to check qualifications from other parts of the United Kingdom simply. There will be no other impact on provision and delivery of service.

### **Access support from school hubs**

5. How school leaders can get support from other schools in their area to improve a specific area of teaching or leadership [Link](#) (published 20/09/22)

6. Wiltshire's position:

In Wiltshire we have the Swindon and Wiltshire Teaching School Hub: [Swindon and Wiltshire Teaching School Hub > About Us \(swindonwiltshiretsh.org.uk\)](https://swindonwiltshiretsh.org.uk). They offer a range of training opportunities including the ECF and NPQs.

For Mathematics we have the Mobius [Mobius Maths Hub - Home](#) and for English [Our English Hub – Ramsbury English Hub \(ramsburyschool.org\)](https://ramsburyschool.org). The nearest Behaviour Hub is located through the Cabot Learning Federation that operate in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset: [Current Lead schools and MATs - Behaviour Hubs](#). This information is regularly shared with schools.

## **Period products in schools and colleges**

7. Guidance for schools and post-16 education organisations in England on providing free period products for all learners [Link](#) (updated 08/09/22)

8. Wiltshire's position: This information is shared with all schools.

## **Invitation for councils, schools and social care settings to register an interest for a new alternative provision (AP) for a new special free school**

9. The Department for Education launched the 2022 application wave for alternative provision (AP) and special free schools in June [Link](#) (updated 20/09/22)

10. Wiltshire's position: The Council is exploring this option and will consider how this will support the implementation of the SEND Green Paper.

## **Vaping guidance for councils and schools**

11. With a sharp rise in the number of children vaping, the Department for Health and Social Care has requested that schools review their vaping policies, paying particular attention to the new guidance from Action on Smoking and Health [Link](#)

12. Wiltshire's position:

This information has been shared with schools through the Newsletter.

## **Schools to share daily attendance data take part in research**

13. Over 65% of schools in England are now sharing their daily attendance data with the Department of Education (DfE). Sharing data means councils and schools get access to daily attendance reports. DfE would like to hear from anyone who would be willing to talk about the experience of using the daily attendance reports. Please complete the form below if you wish to take part. [Link](#) (updated 01/09/22)

14. Wiltshire's position: This platform is promoted across all the schools. Wiltshire operates Groupcall across all schools; this provides live attendance data.

## **Exams head back to normality in 2023**

15. Government and Ofqual confirm exam arrangements for students in 2023 [Link](#) (published 29/9/22)

16. Wiltshire's position:

GCSE, AS, and A level exams in England will largely return to pre-pandemic arrangements next summer as young people continue to recover from the pandemic. In line with the plans set out last September, Ofqual has confirmed a return to pre-pandemic grading in 2023 and the Council has highlighted this through its regular communications.

## **School admission appeals code**

17. We have published 'School admission appeals code 2022', which applies to appeals from 1 October 2022. This replaces 'Draft school admission appeals code 2022 (correction)' and 'Explanatory memorandum to the school admission appeals code 2022' [Link](#) updated 30/09/22)

18. Wiltshire's position: The purpose of updating the Appeals Code is to allow appeal hearings to be held remotely by video conference and in limited circumstances by telephone conference, as well as in person (face to face). These changes have been made in response to positive feedback from stakeholders about the impact of the temporary flexibilities to hold appeals in this way during the COVID-19 pandemic and following a statutory consultation. Wiltshire will therefore continue to offer appeals remotely by telephone conference which has been well received by parents.

## **Emergency Planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings**

19. How educational and childcare settings should plan for and deal with emergencies, including significant public health incidents and severe weather. The guidance has been updated to include 'extreme heat' as an example of severe weather on pages 4 and 7 [Link](#) (updated 03/10/22)

20. Wiltshire's position: The Council publishes an Emergency Conditions Guide for Schools which is being updated to include the latest new guidance on planning for extreme heat.

## **Prisoners start as apprentices at big name employers**

21. Prisoners at open prisons in England are to start high-quality apprenticeships at big name employers thanks to change in law and the Government's skills agenda [Link](#) (published 4/10/22)

22. Wiltshire's position: Apprenticeships are promoted as an excellent way to address skills gaps and develop a talent pipeline. This new legislation refers to Category D prisons, Wiltshire's prison is Category C, not an open prison.

## **Phonics screening check and key stage 1 assessment: England 2022**

23. Provisional information on the 2022 phonics screening check and assessments at key stage 1, including breakdowns by pupil characteristics [Link](#) (published 06/10/22)

24. Wiltshire's position: Information on Phonics and Key Stage 1 performance data is shared with Heads through briefings and strategic boards such as the Wiltshire Learning Alliance. Wiltshire performance in Year 1 phonics is in line with the rounded Phonics screening results nationally, with both at 75%; however, it is 1%

below the South-West regional average at 76%. In terms of Key Stage 1 outcomes when looking at the rounded percentages, Wiltshire is 1% above the national in reading at 68% compared to a national average of 67% which mirrors the South-West, writing is 1% below the national average with results in Wiltshire at 57% compared to 58% nationally and regionally, the Local Authority is in line with national for mathematics at 68% which is also the South-West average. It should be noted that attainment is down nationally from the last published outcomes of 2019 in all areas of phonics and Key Stage 1 performance.