

Coalition Changes – Update July to September 2012

Literacy catch-up programme for disadvantaged pupils

1. Children from poorer backgrounds who are behind in reading and writing at the end of primary school will have the chance to get extra catch-up lessons. This comes as part of the Government's drive to narrow the attainment gap between pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.
2. As part of a [£10 million programme](#), projects will be set up across England to help disadvantaged pupils who fail to reach the expected level of English by the end of primary school (level 4 at Key Stage 2). Some projects will be fast-tracked through the bidding process to start from this September, while other projects will start in 2013.
3. The programme will be run by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). It will help disadvantaged children make the difficult transition from primary to secondary school effectively. The EEF will run a competitive bidding process to fund innovative projects that build on either robust evidence or a strong and practical theory. It is expected that schools themselves, along with charities, local authorities and universities, will bid for the programme.
4. Projects could start at the end of Year 6, in the summer between Year 6 and Year 7, and in Year 7 itself. The Foundation will also consider some projects which include mathematics. Bids will be welcomed from schools, charities, local authorities, or universities and other organisations with expertise in working with disadvantaged pupils.

Academies Update

			Date opened
	Sponsored academies:		
1	The Wellington Academy	Salisbury	September 2009
2	Sarum Academy	Salisbury	September 2010
	Non-sponsored academies:		
3	Hardenhuish	Chippenham	September 2010
4	Lavington	Lavington	January 2011
5	South Wilts	Salisbury	January 2011
6	Bishop Wordsworth's	Salisbury	March 2011
7	Corsham Primary School	Corsham	April 2011
8	The Corsham School	Corsham	April 2011
9	Sheldon School	Chippenham	April 2011
10	Pewsey Vale	Pewsey	July 2011
11	Wootton Bassett	Wootton Bassett	July 2011

12	Kingdown School	Warminster	August 2011
13	St Laurence	Bradford on Avon	August 2011
14	Malmesbury	Malmesbury	August 2011
15	The Holy Trinity School	Great Cheverell	September 2011
16	Saint Edmund's Catholic Academy	Calne	September 2011
17	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Devizes	September 2011
18	St Augustine's Catholic School	Trowbridge	September 2011
19	Springfields School	Calne	September 2011
20	The John Bentley	Calne	November 2011
21	St Edmunds CE Girls School	Salisbury	February 2012
22	The John of Gaunt School	Trowbridge	April 2012
23	The Mead Academy Trust	Trowbridge	May 2012
24	Holy Trinity School,	Calne	May 2012
25	By Brook Valley Primary	Nr Chippenham	May 2012
26	Woodford Valley	Nr Salisbury	June 2012
27	Easton Royal Primary	Nr Pewsey	September 2012
28	Devizes School	Devizes	September 2012
29	St John's School Marlborough	Marlborough	September 2012
30	The Manor Primary	Melksham	September 2012

Project to re-engage NEET young people

5. Funding worth up to £126 million is being made available to organisations across England, who will be paid by results to get 16- and 17-year-olds back into education or training. [The programme](#), part of the Governments Youth Contract, is the first to use payment by results to help get NEETs re-engaged. Organisations involved have had to compete for contracts by showing they are able to get young people back on track. In return for proving they are experts in the field, they will be given freedom to tailor and provide support for disadvantaged young people in the way they know best.
6. Organisations will receive an initial payment for taking young people on, but will only receive subsequent payments when they show progress, such as getting young people to engage with training programmes or undertake apprenticeships. The contracts on offer are worth up to £2,200 for every young person helped, with the full amount payable only if a young person is still in full-time education, training or work with training six months after re-engaging. The South West regional provider is Prospects Training Services (Gloucester) Ltd.

National action plan to tackle child abuse linked to faith or belief.

7. An action plan to cut through the “wall of silence” around ritual child abuse and neglect in the name of witchcraft, spirit possession, the supernatural and faith has been published. The [National action plan to tackle child abuse linked to faith or belief](#) aims to raise awareness of these appalling crimes and sets out urgent practical steps to build intelligence on the ground to identify children at risk and act to protect them.
8. Drawn up with faith leaders, charities, the Metropolitan Police, and statutory partners, it says that there needs to be closer engagement with local communities and churches to prevent abuse. It proposes stronger training and

information for social workers, police and other frontline practitioners working with children; and better access to psychological and therapeutic support for victims. It sets out work to secure prosecutions by improving support for victims to give evidence in court cases and better awareness of how faith-based abuse links to related crimes, including trafficking, missing children and sexual exploitation or grooming.

Children in Care and adoption

9. The Government has published [two discussion papers](#) seeking views on sensitive and important aspects of the care and adoption systems. Views were requested by 31 August and will influence governments thinking on what may need to change.
10. One of the papers is about contact between children in care or who have been adopted and their birth parents. It reviews law and practice about contact arrangements and looks at the available evidence about the impact on children and their outcomes. Amongst other things, it sets out the case for changes to the law to help ensure that contact arrangements serve the best interests of children by contributing to the plan for their permanent care.
11. The other paper is about the placement of sibling groups for adoption. The paper argues that while it is often best for siblings to be adopted by the same adopter or adopters, there can be disadvantages as well as advantages to this approach. It contends that decisions about whether to place siblings together should be made on the basis of the best interests of each individual child and taking full account of the advantages and disadvantages.

Cabinet Reshuffle

12. Michael Gove remains as Education Secretary. Tim Loughton has stepped down as children's minister at the Department for Education (DfE) and Nick Gibb is no longer schools minister. David Laws has been appointed minister at the Department for Education replacing Sarah Teather. He will hold a dual ministerial brief - also working at the Cabinet Office.
13. Elizabeth Truss has been appointed junior minister for early years and Edward Timpson, has been appointed junior minister for adoption and care, alongside Matthew Hancock now joint junior minister for education and business in the DfE and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, replacing John Hayes.

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