

Coalition Changes – Update January to March 2014

Tackling bad behaviour in schools

1. Updated [advice](#) for schools has been published regarding developing school behaviour policies and explaining the powers members of staff have to discipline pupils. It is for individual schools to develop their own best practice for managing behaviour in their school.

School Governors

2. The government is consulting on the [constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools](#). The overall purpose of the proposed changes is to:
 - simplify the overall legislative framework by ensuring that there is a single consistent approach across all maintained schools; and
 - enable more effective governance by ensuring that the primary consideration in decisions about the constitution and membership of governing bodies is the skills that they require to be effective.
3. Proposals include a new skills-based eligibility criteria for appointing governors. Consultation closes on 14 March with the aim to change regulations to come into force on 1 September 2014.
4. The DFE have also published new [guidance](#) which makes clear the vital role of governing bodies as non-executive strategic leaders, and sets out their core functions clearly.

Free School Meals for infants

5. Central Government has published [advice](#) to help support schools to deliver free school lunches to all infant children. It includes how revenue funding for newly eligible pupils will be allocated (£2.30 per child per day) and that each small school (up to 150 pupils) will receive a minimum of £3,000 funding to extend or improve kitchen facilities, and address transitional costs, in addition to the revenue funding. Other measures available are:
 - a. a support service, including a national helpline, run by the Children's Food Trust, to help and support schools across the country - giving advice on the various issues that may arise including visits and one-to-one help where needed

- b. support from Magic Breakfast to set up breakfast clubs in schools where children are coming to school hungry
- c. support from charities to help increase school meal take-up in 2,000 junior and secondary schools that currently have low take-up.

School Organisation

6. New [school organisation regulations](#), and academy processes, to allow schools to make changes to their size and characteristics came into force on 28 January. The changes:
- Allow schools to make certain changes (enlargement of premises, altering age range, and adding boarding provision) without following a statutory process
 - The statutory processes have been slimmed down for certain other changes to maintained schools (e.g. a single-sex school becoming co-educational) by reducing the length of the process and the level of prescription
 - The requirement for academies to submit a formal business case to the department to make similar changes has been removed.

Academies Update

7. Number in Wiltshire as at beginning of March 2014:

Sponsored academies	10
Non-sponsored converter academies	34

8. No additions since last meeting.

Missing Children

9. New statutory guidance for [Children who run away or go missing from home or care](#) has been published which sets out the steps that LAs and their partners should take to stop children going missing and to protect those who do.

Adoption reform

10. Central government is consulting on amendments to statutory guidance and regulations about:
- fostering for adoption
 - consideration of ethnicity when matching children with prospective adopters
 - placing siblings with an adoptive family
 - information to be provided about adoption support

- the Adoption and Children Act register
- contact in respect of children in care and adopted children

11. The consultation "[Adoption: getting it right, making it work](#)" closes on 11 April 2014 and the government expect bring changes into force in early summer 2014.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Corporate Director

Report author: Lynda Cox, Head of Performance and Information Management,
Children's Services.

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