
Coalition Changes – Update May to Sept 2014

New early years pupil premium

1. The DFE have consulted on a new early years pupil premium. Three and four year olds from low income families are to benefit from a new £50 million fund helping to prevent them falling behind before they have even started school. The new early years pupil premium, worth over £300 per pupil, is designed to narrow the attainment gap between young children from low-income families and their peers.
2. The early years pupil premium aims to help early years settings raise the quality of their provision and the [consultation](#)¹ will look at how best to make it work when it is introduced from April 2015.

Mental health and behaviour in schools

3. The DFE published [guidance](#)² for schools which includes:
 - how and when to refer to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
 - practical advice to support children with emotional and behavioural difficulties
 - strengthening pupil resilience
 - tools to identify pupils for likely to need extra support
 - where/how to access community support
4. The guidance outlines to schools that they could use pupil questionnaires, teacher training toolkits and mental health factsheets to help identify potential issues.

Promoting British values in school

5. The Department for Education has launched a consultation on strengthening powers to intervene in schools which are failing to actively promote British values. Values include:
 - democracy
 - the rule of law
 - individual liberty

¹<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-50m-fund-to-help-most-disadvantaged-3-and-4-year-olds>

²<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>

- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

New school food standards

6. A [new set of standards](#)³ for all food served in schools was launched by the DFE. They will be mandatory in all maintained schools, and new academies and free schools. 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
7. The standards will become a legal requirement for schools from January 2015.

Key Information for parents on schools' performance

8. The DFE have consulted on the information that should be provided to parents to get a clear picture on how their school is performing. Under the [proposals](#)⁴:
- primary schools will show:
 - pupils' progress from age 4 to 11 (compared to others with similar starting points in reception)
 - what proportion reach the new standard at age 11
 - how well pupils do on average at age 11
 - what proportion of their pupils are rated 'high achieving'
 - 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](#)⁵
 - what proportion of their pupils achieve at least a C in English and maths
 - what proportion of their pupils achieve the EBacc
 - colleges and school sixth forms will show:

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-school-food-standards>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/parents-to-be-given-key-information-on-schools-performance>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/progress-8-school-performance-measure>

- students' progress in academic subjects or Tech Levels (the new gold-standard technical qualifications that finally place vocational education on a par with A levels)
- what students' average grade is in each category
- the progress made by students who joined them without a C in English and/or maths
- what proportion of their students drop out
- what proportion of their students go on to further study, a job or training at the end of their courses (when the data is robust enough)

Fairer school funding

9. In July, central government announced the results of its fairer funding consultation and signalled that it would be allocating extra money to the least fairly funded local councils from 2015. Wiltshire will benefit from this though the exact amount will not be known until later this year.

Education Services Grant

10. In July, central government published the results of its consultation regarding the reduction of the education services grant that Local Authorities receive. ESG is paid to local authorities and academies on a per pupil basis as an un-ringfenced grant. Local authorities receive additional funding for the obligations that they have to fulfil to both academies and maintained schools (known as "retained duties"). Wiltshire expects a reduction of up to £1 million as a result of the reduction in 2015-16.

SEND

11. A range of guidance documents were published by the DFE at the end of August and beginning of September to help professionals to implement the new arrangements from the 1 September.
 - [SEND: managing changes to legislation from September 2014 \(28 August for all professionals\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-managing-changes-to-legislation-from-september-2014)⁶
 - [SEND: guide for social care professionals \(1 September\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-social-care-professionals)⁷
 - [SEND: guide for schools and alternative provision settings \(1 September\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings)⁸
 - [SEND: guide for further education providers \(1 September\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-further-education-providers)⁹
 - [SEND: guide for early years settings \(5 September\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-early-years-settings)¹⁰

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-managing-changes-to-legislation-from-september-2014>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-social-care-professionals>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-further-education-providers>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-early-years-settings>

- [SEND: guide for health professionals \(9 September\)](#)¹¹

New freedoms to help local areas support vulnerable children

12. Under new regulations, local authorities will be able to delegate social care functions to mutuals, community interest companies and other not-for-profit organisations to deliver children's social care. The details are outlined in the [government's response](#)¹² to the consultation on powers to delegate social care functions. The new regulations are to be introduced in autumn 2014 and only bodies working on a not-for-profit basis will be able to take on the functions.

New rules for adoption

13. In July [new rules](#)¹³ came into force around adoption. They include:
- removing barriers by ensuring ethnicity is not prioritised over other factors
 - introducing new rules requiring councils to actively consider fostering for adoption places where appropriate - allowing children to move in with their adoptive family much earlier
 - placing a mandatory requirement on all councils to tell prospective adopters about their entitlements
14. The government has also introduced the adoption passport, which sets out the rights and entitlements of adoptive parents, and the new online adoption maps, which allow potential adopters to find out more information about services in their area.

Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children

15. [Statutory guidance](#)¹⁴ has been published which sets out the steps local authorities should take to plan for the provision of support for looked after children who are unaccompanied asylum seeking children and child victims of trafficking.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-health-professionals>

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-freedoms-to-help-local-areas-support-vulnerable-children>

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/adoption-getting-it-right-making-it-work>

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children>

Child poverty strategy 2014 to 2017

16. The government remains committed to the goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020 by breaking the cycle of disadvantage. Actions set out in the [strategy](#)¹⁵ include:

- Supporting families into work
- Reducing costs to support people's living standards
- Raising educational attainment

Academies Update

17. Number in Wiltshire as at beginning of September 2014:

Sponsored academies	13
Non-sponsored converter academies	40

18. New Academies in September:

St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School, Wootton Bassett
Queen's Crescent Primary School, Chippenham
St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Chippenham
Castle Mead Primary Academy, Trowbridge (new school)
Wellington Primary Academy (new school)

19. Salisbury Sixth Form College (Free School) opened in September 2014.

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Largely taken from the DFE website content 20 May to 26 September 2014.

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¹⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/child-poverty-strategy-launched>