



Pearson

Policy Watch

Your guide to what's happening in the world of education



The week in a nutshell

As MPs prepared for their summer recess, there was still time for ministers make headline grabbing financial announcements. First up was the reveal of the second of the three-year school funding settlement. Although the increase was welcomed, many within the sector believe it will not be enough to cover COVID-19 related necessities. This was followed by increases in teacher pay, which will be funded by schools. And staying on the financial theme, the Chancellor launched the Comprehensive Spending Review, ESFA announced the adult education budget for the coming year and we saw extra money announced for education in Scotland (teachers) and Wales (HE). And in an illustration of the pressure that budgets will come under in the short and longer term, the ONS survey on homeschooling during lockdown provided more evidence of the impact this period is having. As ministers depart for the summer tackling learning loss and mitigating the effect of education closures will be at the forefront of their minds.

Top stories

Schools in England will receive an increase of £4.8bn in 2021 compared with 2019 with secondary and primary schools attracting a minimum of £5,150 and £4,000 respectively per pupil.

- This allocation forms the second part of this government's three-year school funding settlement
- Funding to cover increases to teacher pay and pensions worth £2 billion will also be included from 2021 rather than paid separately.
- [Nick Gibb written statement to Parliament – School funding](#)

Increases to teachers' pay have been announced with a 5.5% increase in the starting salary. The Government has also committed to increase the upper and lower boundaries of the pay ranges for all other teachers by 2.75%.

- Education Secretary Gavin Williamson stated that he wants to make teaching an "attractive" prospect by "recognising the outstanding contribution teachers make to our society."
- [Gavin Williamson written statement to Parliament – Teacher update](#)
- Responses: [Labour Party](#); [NEU](#); [ASCL](#);

The Office for National Statistics has published a report on homeschooling during lockdown.

- 52% of parents with school-aged children said a child in their household was struggling to continue their education while at home, with 77% of these parents citing a lack of motivation.
- 64% of children aged 16-18 years in full-time education thought that continuing their education at home would negatively affect their future life plans.

The Labour Party has **launched** their new “7 Key Tests for Higher Education” which calls on the Government to help UK universities and students.

- The seven tests are designed to create a comprehensive solution to ensure that all universities and students are safeguarded from the economic impact of the coronavirus virus.
- Shadow Universities Minister, Emma Hardy stated that “by passing these tests, the government will show commitment to our HE sector, to our young people and to our regional economies.”.

Pearson news

More PTE locations for UKVI announced The UK Government has approved Pearson to open bookings for Pearson Test of English (PTE) as a Secure English Language Test (SELT) for UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) in a further 23 locations. This includes another six centres in the UK – Belfast, Birmingham, Peterborough, Portsmouth, London and Sheffield - and 17 centres globally in locations such as Dubai, Islamabad and Lagos. [Click here](#)

Pearson tweet of the week



Other news

Parliament

- Chancellor launches Comprehensive Spending Review
- Education Select Committee letter to Skills Minister, Gillian Keegan on apprenticeships
- Education Select Committee – COVID-19 inquiry session
- Lords Oral Question: Lord Aderdare, Employment: Young people (short debate)

Regulators & funding bodies

- ESFA annual report and accounts
- Ofqual summer symposium explains standardisation process for GCSE, AS & A levels

Schools

- Upto 3000 new SEND places to be created in new special free schools by 2022

Further Education

- ESFA: Adult education budget allocations
- AoC on ESFA's Adult education budget allocations
- 20 colleges awarded funding from the College Collaboration Fund - announcement

Higher Education

- Universities Minister Michelle Donelan speech to Festival of Higher Education
- Universities agree further measures to tackle grade inflation (UUK & Guild HE)
- HEPI debate paper – Miseducation: decolonising curricula, culture and pedagogy in UK universities
- OfS: Lower A-level grades from unconditional offers lead to higher dropout rates

Scotland

- Funding announced by Scottish Government to recruit 850 new teachers and 200 teaching assistants

Wales

- Welsh Government announce £50 million funding to support Welsh universities, colleges and students

Consultation watch

New consultations:

- Welsh Govt: Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill. [Closes 29 September](#)
- Welsh Govt: Draft Tertiary Education and Research Bill. [Closes 4 December](#)

Consultation outcomes:

- DfE: Financial transparency of LA maintained schools and academy trusts (Open: 17 July to 30 Sept 2019)
- Ofsted: Changes to post-inspection processes and complaints handling (Open: 3 March to 30 April 2020)
- Welsh Govt: Relaxation of school reporting requirements (Open: 22 June to 10 July 2020)

What's happening in Parliament next week

- **Wednesday 29 July:** House of Lords – Summer recess begins (ends 2 September)
- *House of Commons in recess until 1 September*