



# Pearson

## Policy Watch

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



### The week in a nutshell

This week has been dominated by the **Chancellor's one year Spending Review** – both the speculation beforehand and then the actual detail. As expected, we saw some extra money for schools and confirmation of the pay freeze for teachers (earning over £24k). There was welcome support to cover expected increases in learners aged 16-19 and money for the coming year was earmarked for the National Skills Fund. Interestingly, there was no mention of Higher Education or universities. This Spending Review was, in the main, about the pandemic and its impact, and so the real test of the government's plans for education will be next year's review which, you would expect cover multiple years. And by then we will have had the FE White Paper and the response the Augar. Also this week, we've been able to celebrate the best of education, through the **Pearson National Teaching Awards** and the **National Apprenticeship Awards**. Congratulations to all the winners.

### Top story

#### Spending Review - Education summary:

##### Teaching profession

- £22m investment in the Early Careers Framework.
- Pay freeze for school staff that earn more than £24,000 p/a.

##### Early Years

- Additional £44m in 2021-22 increasing hourly rate paid to childcare providers for the Govt's free hours.

##### Schools

- Increased schools budget from £47.6bn in 2020-21 to £49.8bn in 2021-22, an increase of £2.2bn.
- Commitment to 50 new school rebuilding projects a year across England.
- £1.8bn to maintain and improve the condition of school buildings in 2021-22.
- £300m in 2021-22 for new school places for children with SEND.
- £83m in 2021-22 for post-16 providers to accommodate expected demographic increases in 16-19 y/o.

##### Skills and Further Education

- Additional £291m for FE in 2021-22, ensuring that real terms funding per pupil is maintained.
- £1.5 billion over six years to improve Further Education college estates.
- £375m from the National Skills Fund in 2021-22 which included:
  - £138m to fund technical courses for adults, equivalent to A-Levels
  - £127m to support the Plan for Jobs, funding for traineeships and the National Careers Service.
  - £110m (including £50m capital investment) to support higher technical provision.
  - £162m in 2021-22 to support the roll out of T-Levels wave 2 and 3.

##### Apprenticeships

- £2.5bn of funding for improving the apprenticeships network.

- Unspent levy funds will be able to be transferred in bulk to SMEs but will still expire after two years.
- Incentive payments introduced in the Plan for Jobs will be extended to the end of March 2021.

### Higher Education

- £64m in 2021-22 for the Student Loans Company, including for its transformation programme.
- Funding for UK-wide domestic alternative to Erasmus+ programme in the event of no deal with EU.
- BEIS allocated with £11.1bn of R&D funding which will include an uplift of £490m per year until 2023-24.

### Stakeholder responses

NAHT; NEU; NASUWT; AoC; EPI; CaSE; FSB

### Other stories

#### Ofqual has published two reports evaluating summer 2020 qualifications results by students group

- The research suggests that students were not systematically disadvantaged in 2020 on the basis of their protected characteristics or socio-economic status.
- The analysis broke down students' results in a multitude of ways including gender, ethnicity and socio-economic status. It concluded that had calculated grades been awarded, results would have more closely reflected the breakdown by students' characteristics from previous years.
- The attainment gap between male and female candidates narrowed further.

#### The Sutton Trust has published two new reports examining how the UK compares globally when it comes to approaches to widening access to HE.

- England's universities are world leaders when it comes to widening access according to the Sutton Trust. However, it recommends how this can be improved such as "encouraging collaboration between leading universities and representative organisations and charities."
- The second report examines the impact of the global pandemic on HE. Of the 45 countries surveyed, 80% have had their admissions processes disrupted. Mostly caused by cancellation of exams.

#### The Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) has published summaries of 10 cases to show how it handles different scenarios concerning complaints by students for the loss of teaching time caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

- Some complaints to the OIA demanded tuition fee refunds for lost teaching time but these were rejected as the regulator concluded that universities had taken necessary steps to continue teaching.
- The OIA only recently started receiving complaints as it is necessary for complainants to lodge their complaint to their universities before it being passed on to the OIA.

## Pearson news & blogs

**Gender Equality Guidelines launched to tackle gender stereotyping in education** Pearson has launched the Pearson Gender Equality Guidelines, a first-of-its-kind commitment by a learning company to tackle gender bias and stereotyping in education. These guidelines are endorsed by the Fawcett Society. [Click to download the guidelines](#)

**Making Waves: A better future for assessment webinar** How can we build a better future for assessment? Along with The Centre for Education and Youth, we have spent two years studying the people Making Waves in assessment. Join us on 1 December to learn more about their stories at the launch of *'Making Waves: A better future for assessment'*. [Sign up here](#)



**Pearson Teaching Awards** All week we've been working with The One Show to ensure The Pearson National Teaching Awards 2020 Winners receive a surprise to remember! Watch BBC One tonight (Friday) at 7pm to learn more about the achievements of our incredible winners.

In the **latest in our series of blogs**, **Sharon Hague** discusses a new era for home education and online schooling. To read more [Pearson Policy Blogs click here](#).

## Pearson tweet of the week



## Other news

### Parliamentary

- Chancellor's Spending Review speech
- Spending Review documents
- Education Questions – House of Commons
- Vicky Ford, Children's Minister, keynote address on assistive technology
- Public Accounts Committee: Managing colleges' financial sustainability (evidence session)
- Education Select Committee: Home Education evidence session
- Petitions Committee - Work Black history and cultural diversity in the curriculum (Non-inquiry session)
- Labour calls for urgent government action to "keep children learning"

### Regulators & inspectorates

- Ofqual: Report on the Sawtooth Effect (patterns in student exam performance when assessments are reformed)

### COVID-19

- DfE: Latest attendance figures – pandemic related
- ONS: Analysis of the number of school workers, key workers and other professions in England who had COVID-19
- OIA publishes case summaries of complaints arising from the impact of Covid-19

### Schools

- DfE: school-led webinars on remote education to help share good practice
- DfE: School and college staff wellbeing: report (literature review)
- Education Support Partnership: Teacher wellbeing index 2020 show more suffering poor mental health whilst stress levels soar
- EPI analysis of school attendance rates across the UK since reopening

### Further Education & Skills

- National Apprenticeship Awards 2020 national winners unveiled
- AELP: Ministers should be bold about introducing a demand-led system in the FE White Paper
- AoC report on Adult Programme Costs and Rates calls for funding raise to ensure course viability

### Higher Education

- OfS: Beyond COVID-19 – The future of digital teaching and learning
- UUK publishes new set of recommendations to tackle racial harassment in UK higher education

#### Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 27 November 2020

- Sutton Trust – England leads the way on access to selective universities but must learn lessons
- OfS: New data highlights equality gaps for estranged students

## Wales

- Qualifications Wales makes decision on non-examination assessments and January exams

## Consultation watch

### New consultations

- Ofsted: Changes to the publication of statistics on further education and skills inspections and outcomes.  
[Closes 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021](#)

## What's happening in Parliament next week

### House of Commons

- **Tuesday 1 December:** Education Select Committee - Left behind white pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds
- **Thursday 3 December:** The future of nurseries and early years settings - Steve Brine, Theresa Villiers, Jack Dromey (Westminster Hall Debate)