



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

It's been a tumultuous week with the resignation of the **Prime Minister** and the sight of three Education Secretaries in as many days. The ministerial domino rally that was started by the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, quickly found its way to the Department for Education with **Nadhim Zahawi** moving to the Treasury, to be replaced by Universities Minister, **Michelle Donelan** (Tuesday). Children's Minister, **Will Quince**, School's Minister, **Robin Walker**, and Skills Minister, **Alex Burghart** all resigned the following day (Wednesday). That same day Michelle Donelan gave her maiden appearance at the dispatch box as Secretary of State. However, when it became clear the Prime Minister was standing firm in the face of so many resignations, Donelan also resigned (Thursday), leaving DfE minister-less. **James Cleverly** was appointed Secretary of State, shortly before the Prime Minister announced his intention to resign.

There will now be a Conservative leadership contest, with a new leader installed at some point during the summer. That will lead to another new set of ministers in Sanctuary Buildings. For the time being there remains posts unfilled, with no Schools, Skills, or Universities Ministers. And so Cleverly's job will be to keep things ticking over until the leadership issue is resolved. Although we are approaching summer recess, this latest Secretary of State will have exam results and university & college admissions to deal with.

The week also saw the old education ministerial team take their monthly questions from MPs, the publication of the National Student Survey, and the Festival of Education.

Top stories

National Student Survey results show signs of post-pandemic recovery, though some subjects still lag

- Results from this year's **National Student Survey (NSS)** show an increase in students rating their access to resources positively, while views of teaching quality still lag behind pre-pandemic levels.
- The survey – one of the largest of its kind in the world with almost 325,000 responses across the UK this year – highlights some overall improvements in students' views about the quality of their education, with significant variation between individual universities and colleges.
- There is also variation in the views of students studying different subjects – with 89 per cent of veterinary students positive about the quality of teaching, compared with 76 per cent of computing students.
- There was a marked increase in the percentage of students reporting positively on their access to learning resources for their course, with 81 per cent of students in England agreeing with the statement in 2022, compared with 73 per cent in 2021

HEPI: Ensuring the most disadvantaged minorities in UK education – Gypsies, Roma and Travellers – have fairer opportunities

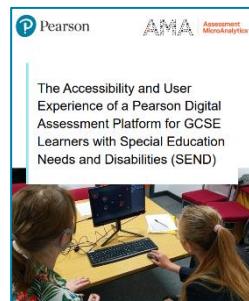
- The Higher Education Policy Institute has **published** a new report on access to education among Gypsies, Roma and Travellers (GRT), supported by the University of Sussex.
- Policy recommendations include:
 - Better data collection: clear and consistent data collection of students and staff who identify as Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showman and Boaters at education institutions.
 - Recognising Gypsy, Roma and Traveller histories: marking Holocaust Memorial Day (January), International Roma Remembrance Day (April) and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller participation History Month (June).
 - More tailored funding: £60 million Government funding to work with community groups to improve outcomes.

EPI: Teachers' pay in context – Analysis

- The Education Policy Institute (EPI) has **published new analysis**, which explores the ongoing difficulties and seemingly ‘irreconcilable differences’ facing negotiations on the 2022/23 teacher pay awards, and indicates teacher shortages on the horizon alongside difficult pay negotiations.
- Teacher supply is at risk. Department for Education (DfE) forecasts indicate a need for 5,000 more teachers between 2021 and 2025, but current recruitment targets are not being met and nearly a third of teachers leave the profession within five years.
- The Government will need to consider increasing its original proposal on teachers’ pay to help limit further recruitment and retention problems, and reduce the risk of industrial action, but they must also consider the wider implications this will have on schools’ budgets, in the absence of any further commitments from the Treasury to boost education budgets.

Pearson news

How can we shape accessible assessments? We partnered with Assessment MicroAnalytics™ to explore how onscreen assessment might benefit students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). [Explore our research](#)



Pearson tweet of the week

Pearson BTEC @PearsonBTEC · Jul 7
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The **#BTEC** Tech Award 2022 series have been carefully developed to help you deliver engaging teaching and to prepare your students for assessment.

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Other news

Parliamentary

- Commons: Education Oral Questions
- Commons: Medieval History in Schools
- Commons: Estimates Days (2nd allotted day – inc. Department for Education)
- WMS: Early Years; Early Education and Childcare
- WMS: Education Update
- WMS: Departmental Update
- Lords: Alternative plans if the UK is no longer part of the Horizon Europe research programme
- Education Committee: Children's Homes – report

Regulatory and funding bodies

- ESFA Update: 6 July 2022
- Amanda Spielman's speech to the Festival of Education, 2022
- Ofsted: Six new members join Ofqual Board
- Many children placed in homes far away from their families amid national sufficiency challenge
- OfS: National Student Survey (NSS) results
- OfS: £1.4 billion funding for higher education
- Ofqual: Catherine Large at the End Point Assessment 2022 conference
- IfATE: QAA signs memorandum of understanding with the Dutch division of the accreditation organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders

Schools

- Key stage 2 attainment 2022: national headlines
- Intervention to improve underperforming schools to begin from September 2022
- Drive to reduce the cost of childcare for parents
- EPI: Teachers' pay in context
- LACA: Survey finds school meals at risk as poorer quality food served to children
- IFS: Pre-pandemic relative poverty rate for children of lone parents almost double that for children living with two parents
- National Tutoring programme: guidance for schools 2022 to 2023
- Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman report on ensuring children out of school get a good education

Further Education & Skills

- Review of education or training in relation to local needs
- The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation: statistics on Perceptions of vocational and technical qualifications - wave 5

Higher Education

- OfS: National Student Survey (NSS) results
- HEPI: report on access to education among Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

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- UUK: A return to pre-pandemic ‘upper’ degree awarding promised by universities in England
- UUK: Universities creating jobs and levelling up

Scotland

- Summer support for children

Wales

- Annual report for curriculum implementation
- Statistics on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller school pupils.
- Oral Statement: Curriculum for Wales Roll-out
- School improvement guidance: impact assessment
- Post-16 consistent performance measures newsletter: further education and schools

Northern Ireland

- McIlveen announces £10m for Engage Programme
- McIlveen announces additional £2.25m for Healthy Happy Minds

Consultation Watch

New consultations

- Childcare: regulatory changes Closes: 10 August 2022
- Early years funding formulae Closes: 16 September 2022

Closing consultations

- Higher Education Statistics Agency: de-designation Closes: 10 July 2022
- Scotland: Home education guidance Closes 13 July 2022

Ongoing consultations

- Scottish Government: Education - National Improvement Framework - A consultation on enhanced data collection for improvement Closes: 18 July 2022
- Appropriate body reform and induction assessment Closes: 21 July 2022
- Access to schools for education and training providers Closes: 25 July 2022
- School registers and national threshold for legal intervention Closes: 29 July 2022
- Ofqual: Regulating alternative academic and alternative technical qualifications at level 3 Closes: 10 August
- Institute for Apprenticeships and Higher Education: Post-16 consultation Closes: 10 August 2022
- Reviews of education, health and care (EHC) plans: proposed timescales Closes: 12 August 2022
- Implementing the direct national funding formula Closes: 9 September 2022
- Ofsted/CQC: A new approach to area SEND inspections Closes: 11 September 2022
- Northern Ireland: Consultation on functions currently delivered by the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI) Closes: 30 September 2022

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What's happening in Parliament next week

Monday 11 July

House of Lords

- Debate: Public Services Committee report 'Children in crisis: the role of public services in overcoming child vulnerability'

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG for Universities
- APPG for the Teaching Profession. AGM

Tuesday 12 July

Westminster Hall

- Eligibility criteria for free school meals (Emma Lewell-Buck, Lab, South Shields)
- Potential merits of universal screening and teacher training for dyslexia (Matt Hancock, Con, West Suffolk)

Commons Committees

- Education Committee: The future of post-16 education

House of Lords

- Oral questions: Improving financial education for 11-16 year olds since it became a statutory part of the citizenship curriculum (Baroness Sater, Con)
- Legislation: Schools Bill – report stage (day 1)

Wednesday 13 July

Westminster Hall

- Provision of careers guidance in schools (Mike Amesbury, Lab, Weaver Vale)

House of Lords

- Oral questions: Financial support for low income families with children to help with the increased cost of living (Baroness Lister of Burtersett, Lab)

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG for the Teaching Profession. AGM AND ELECTION

Thursday 14 July

House of Lords

- Debate: Status and opportunities for women and girls in the UK since 2010

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