



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

Education Secretary Gillian Keegan gave evidence to the Education Committee for the first time this week, covering strike impact mitigation, the possibility of an undergraduate apprenticeship for maths and physics teaching, social mobility in grammar schools, and how conversations surrounding Rishi Sunak's British Baccalaureate proposal are currently focused on maths to 18. She also announced that the Schools Bill will not progress any further – more detail below.

Meanwhile, the [Report of the Commission on the UK's Future](#), led by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, was published this week. Among its wide-ranging recommendations on devolution were consolidating adult education and skills funding streams, improving democratic accountability in LSIPs, and the administrative devolution and expansion of Jobcentre Plus.

Top stories

Gillian Keegan tells the Education Select Committee that the Schools Bill will progress no further

- Education Secretary Gillian Keegan has confirmed to the Education Committee that the flagship Schools Bill will not be progressing any further.
- She stressed that they remained committed to the principles of the Bill – particularly the registration of home-schooled children.
- When asked by committee chair Robin Walker what would come of plans to direct the national funding formula (NFF) to schools based on the levels of deprivation in the areas they served, Keegan said she felt they already had the powers to go make headway without legislative change.

Resolution Foundation publishes briefing on UK skills, tasks, and training

- The Resolution Foundation has published a [briefing note](#) on skills, tasks and training in the UK labour market, as part of its wider Economy 2030 Inquiry. Key findings include:
 - In the last 25 years, the need for social and abstract skills in the workplace has increased, while the employment shares of occupations intensive in manual skills have fallen. Wages have grown particularly strongly for jobs that require a significant amount of abstract reasoning.
 - Despite these fundamental shifts in the skills needed to thrive in the workplace, training is in decline: the proportion of workers who report that they have received work-related training in the past 3 months has fallen from 29 per cent in 2002 to 24 per cent in 2020. What training does take place is acting to increase, not reduce, inequalities.
 - The UK has seen falling rates of job mobility in recent decades, with much of the changing patterns of occupational structure driven by entry and exit of workers as opposed to employed workers transitioning from declining to expanding sectors.

HEPI publishes policy note on students' views on digital learning resources

- The Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) has published a [policy note](#) based on polling carried out by UCAS, which compares students' expectations with reality regarding digital learning resources. Key findings include:
 - 45% of students disagree that the online resources at their school or college were better than those at their higher education institution, while 38% agree.
 - The digital resources most widely available to students include lecture slides (92%), online reading lists (84%), and eBooks and e-journals (81%).
 - The most in-demand digital resource is lecture recordings – which are currently accessed by 79% of students.
 - 84% of students 'sometimes', 'rarely' or 'never' purchase course books, relying instead on their institution's library.
 - The overwhelming majority of students want digital course books available on one consistent reading platform (55% 'strongly agree' and 32% 'agree').

NFER launches teacher workforce dashboard

- Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) has [launched a new interactive dashboard](#) providing insights into local and national teacher workforce challenges.
- Broken down by local authority, parliamentary constituency, school type and academic subject, the data offers insights into teacher retention, recruitment and shortages while comparing regional data with national averages.
- Its key insights include that the proportion of students who receive Free School Meals correlates with teacher attrition rates, and that there is little difference in teacher retention between schools in Education Investment Areas (EIAs) and other areas.

Sutton Trust: The recent evolution of Apprenticeships

- A new report published by the **Sutton Trust** has found [young people from low-income backgrounds are under-represented](#) in higher and degree level apprenticeships compared to university – alongside a decline in overall apprenticeship starts in recent years, which has been much bigger in areas of high deprivation.

Pearson news



Pearson National Teaching Awards We were thrilled to join teachers from schools and colleges across the country recently at the Pearson National Teaching Awards ceremony, where we announced our [sixteen Gold Award Winners](#). Every year, we recognise the nominees' and winners' work to inspire, encourage and support their students, colleagues and communities through these awards.

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Pearson tweets of the week



Other news

Parliamentary

- Commons: Ofsted School Inspections
- Lords: Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill – report stage
- Lords: Initial Teacher Training Providers
- Lords: Immigration Skills Charge (Amendment) Regulations 2022
- Lords: Independent Review of Children's Social Care
- WMS: Capital Funding for Buildings and Facilities: Energy Efficiency
- WMS: Devolution in England

Regulatory and funding bodies

- Ofqual: Open letters: arrangements for exams and assessments in 2023
- ESFA Update: 7 December 2022
- ESFA: Letter from Minister Halfon on the FE workforce data collection
- QAA announces funding for 16 new Collaborative Enhancement Projects
- OIAHE: Good Practice Framework - Handling complaints and academic appeals
- OfS: Guide to funding 2022-23
- OfS: World-leading specialist provider funding: Outcome
- OfS: Capital funding for financial years 2022-23 to 2024-25
- OfS: Deadlines and requirements for Annual Financial Return 2023
- OfS: Briefing note: How higher education quality is regulated in England

Schools

- Investment to shield schools from high energy bills and boost to budgets
- Energy efficiency: guidance for the school and FE college estate (guidance)
- DfE: Pupil attendance in schools
- LA and school expenditure: 2021 to 2022 financial year
- OHID: Child education: 2022 update

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- [New SafeLives research finds Relationships and Sex Education \(RSE\) is falling seriously short of what young people need](#)
- [Impetus: Our new report on social and emotional learning](#)
- [NFER: Carole Willis appointed to board of directors for School-Led Development Trust](#)
- [NFER: New interactive dashboard offers insights into local and national teacher workforce challenges](#)
- [New Historic England Report Shows Learning About Local Heritage at School Improves Local Pride](#)

Further Education & Skills

- [ESFA: Skills Bootcamps starts 2021 to 2022](#)
- [Resolution Foundation: Train in Vain? Skills, tasks, and training in the UK labour market](#)
- [Sutton Trust: The recent evolution of apprenticeships](#)
- [Lifelong Education Commission: ESOL for Skills](#)
- [Social Mobility Foundation: Employer Index 2022](#)

Higher Education

- [£490 million skills training boost to help get more people into jobs](#)
- [OIAHE: Good Practice Framework: Handling complaints and academic appeals](#)
- [OfS allocates £432 million to boost higher education facilities and equipment](#)
- [UCAS: Record number of disadvantaged students accepted onto higher education courses in 2022](#)
- [HEPI: How can you help me?: Students' perspectives on careers services and employment](#)

Scotland

- [National Mission to close attainment gap](#)
- [Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills Shirley-Anne Somerville's statement on the Scottish Attainment Challenge Local Stretch Aims](#)
- [Post-school education, research and skills: interim purpose and principles](#)

Wales

- [More support available in schools for Welsh learning](#)
- [Written Statement: Student loan repayment threshold for borrowers who began an undergraduate course on or after 1 September 2012](#)
- [Written Statement: Response to Census 2021 results on the Welsh language](#)
- [Oral Statement: Supply Teaching Model](#)
- [Written Statement: Delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#)

Consultation Watch

New consultations

- [Introducing regulations for supported accommodation provision Closes: 16 January 2023](#)

Closing consultations

- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education: Consultation on proposals for changes to the Access to HE Diploma Specification Closes: 13 December 2022
- Scottish Government: Professor Hayward's Independent Review of Qualifications and Assessment Closes: 16 December 2022

Ongoing consultations

- Scottish Government: Skills delivery independent review call for evidence Closes: 23 December 2022
- TASO/Office for Students: Call for evidence – risks to equality of opportunity Closes: 23 December 2022
- Scottish Government: Transfer of the functions of education appeal committees to the Scottish Tribunals Closes: 6 February 2022
- Welsh Government: Curriculum for Wales – Clarifying the Humanities area in relation to the history of Wales and the world Closes: 4 January 2023
- Welsh Government: Refresh of the 'Criteria for accreditation of initial teacher education in Wales' Closes: 5 January 2023
- Children's social care providers: fees and inspections 2023 Closes: 18 January 2023
- Changes to the early years educator level 3 criteria Closes: 23 January 2023
- Scottish Government: Addition of trade union nominees to the boards of college institutions Closes: 27 January 2023
- Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education: Sales, Marketing and Procurement (SMP) route review public consultation Closes: TBC

What's happening in Parliament next week

Monday 12 December

House of Lords

- Oral questions: Baroness Chapman of Darlington (Lab) to ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking in response to the reprimand issued by the Information Commissioner's Office to the Department for Education on 6 November for breaching data protection law regarding children's private information.

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG on Global Education

Tuesday 13 December

House of Commons

- Ten Minute Rule Motion: Free School Meals (Primary Schools) (Zarah Sultana, Lab, Coventry South)

Commons Committees

- Education Committee: The future of post-16 qualifications (with Skills Minister Robert Halfon)

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House of Lords

- Oral questions: Baroness D'Souza (Crossbench) to ask His Majesty's Government which government departments share responsibility for (1) the funding of, and (2) and decisions about, school meals in (a) term times, and (b) vacations.
- Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill – third reading

Wednesday 14 December

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG on Child of the North

Friday 16 December

House of Lords

- Debate: Report from the Public Services Committee: Fit for the future? Rethinking the public services workforce