



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

With the summer break almost upon us, it has been a very busy week with announcements, research, and negotiations galore. Perhaps the biggest news was the Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the School Teachers' Review Body (STRB), giving teachers in England a pay award of 6.5%. Education unions will now put the offer to their members, with the recommendation that they accept the award and call off strike action. How this and the other public sector pay deals will be funded will remain an issue as departments have to pay a significant proportion from existing budgets. Earlier in the week, members of the NASUWT had voted for strike action. And NEFR and Gatsby put out research relating to pay and incentives.

The Education Select Committee held its second evidence session for its [teacher recruitment, training and retention inquiry](#), which included contributions from Teach First and The National Institute for Teaching. While in the Lords, Schools Minister [Nick Gibb](#) and DfE officials [provided evidence to the Education for 11–16 Year Olds Committee](#).

The DfE published [provisional KS2 assessment results](#), with similar results to last year – though they are yet to return to pre-pandemic levels. DfE also set out an [updated version of the reading framework](#), which provides guidance for primary and secondary schools to meeting expectations for teaching reading. In addition to this, Nick Gibb announced the Government's intention to launch an evidence review of best practice in the teaching of writing, to look at how best to improve attainment.

Ofsted published new subject reports for [mathematics](#) and [history](#) as part of its series examining the quality of teaching across different areas of the curriculum. Both subjects demonstrated improvements. And we saw calls from a diverse group, including former ministers, for [tuition to be funded](#) in to support the narrowing of the attainment gap, the IFS publish its findings into school finances – including the impact of Labour's plan to remove tax exemptions from private school fees, and a [thought-provoking collection of essays](#) on HE policy to celebrate HEPI's 20th anniversary.

Top stories

Coalition calls for Government to fund 10 million hours of tutoring

- A coalition of charities, senior figures and cross-party politicians is [calling on the Government](#) for 10 million hours of tutoring to be funded over the next Parliament, to help narrow the attainment gap and support young people's declining mental health.
- This comes as the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) is due to be scrapped at the end of next academic year, despite evidence showing just 12 hours of tutoring can drive three months of additional progress in pupils – many of whom are still lagging two months behind pre-pandemic levels.

- Senior figures including England's Children's Commissioner Dame Rachel De Souza, Chair of the Education Select Committee Robin Walker MP, former Education Secretary the Rt Hon. the Lord Blunkett and Lib Dem education spokesperson, Munira Wilson MP, have all joined the call.
- The coalition has put forward a plan for a recalibration of tutoring provision back to its original core purpose to provide high quality tutoring – at significant scale – to the pupils who need it most, from 5-19. You can read the full report [here](#).

NFER and Gatsby Foundation publish research on potential impacts of teacher supply incentives

- The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), in partnership with the Gatsby Foundation, has [published new research](#) examining the forecasted impacts and costs of different levels of pay and financial incentives on teacher supply in England. Key findings include:
 - Nominal average teacher pay has grown more slowly compared to wages in the wider economy since 2010.
 - Flattening of the main teacher pay scale by increasing teacher starting salaries at a faster rate than those of more experienced teachers has helped support the Government's ambition to increase teacher starting salaries to £30,000.
 - A bolder option for pay would be to separate the primary and secondary pay scales.
 - Bursaries and early career payments boost teacher supply through targeting incentives at subjects and schools where challenges are most acute.
- The full report, including recommendations, is available [here](#).

DfE publishes summary of qualifications intended to be submitted for approval

- The Department for Education has [published a summary](#) of the number and type of qualifications which awarding organisations intend to submit for approval from 2025.
- All level 3 alternative academic and technical qualifications must get new approval for funding from 2025. The [document](#) shows how many registrations of intent awarding organisations have submitted for the 2025/26 academic year, for small alternative academic qualifications, and for technical qualifications.

IFS publishes school fees and spending report

- The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has [published a report](#) examining private school fees and state schools spending, as well as Labour's proposals to remove tax exemptions from independent schools. Its key findings included:
 - In 2022–23, average private school fees across the UK were £15,200 in today's prices (net of bursaries and scholarships). This is £7,200 or nearly 90% higher than state school spending per pupil, which was £8,000 in 2022–23 (including day-to-day and capital spending). The gap between private school fees and state school spending per pupil has more than doubled since 2010.
 - The share of pupils across the UK in private schools has remained around 6–7% for at least the last 20 years (or about 560,000–570,000 pupils in England).
 - They estimate that removing tax exemptions from private schools would raise about £1.6 billion a year in extra tax revenue.
 - If demand for private schooling reduces as a result of increases in post-tax fees, the additional tax revenue raised would likely be unaffected.

- If private school attendance drops, state schools will require extra funding to accommodate them.
- Combining estimated tax revenues and extra public spending needs, the IFS view is that it would be reasonable to assume a net gain to the public finances of £1.3–1.5 billion per year in the medium to long run as a result of removing tax exemptions from private schools, however there is still lots of uncertainty around these estimates.

DfE releases provisional results for KS2 national curriculum assessments

- The DfE has [released the latest provisional national headline results](#) for the 2023 national curriculum assessments at key stage 2, which shows that attainment in all of reading, writing and maths (combined) remained the same as in 2022.
- In reading, 73% of pupils met the expected standard, down from 75% in 2022. (pre-pandemic this was 73%)
- In maths, 73% of pupils met the expected standard, up from 71% in 2022. (pre-pandemic this was 79%)
- In writing, 71% of pupils met the expected standard, up from 69% in 2022. (pre-pandemic this was 78%)
- In grammar, punctuation and spelling, 72% of pupils met the expected standard, unchanged from 2022. (pre-pandemic this was 78%)
- In science, 80% of pupils met the expected standard, up from 79% in 2022. (pre-pandemic this was 83%)
- In all of reading, writing and maths, 59% of pupils met the expected standard, unchanged from 2022. (pre-pandemic this was 65%)

DfE publishes response to FE funding and accountability reform consultation

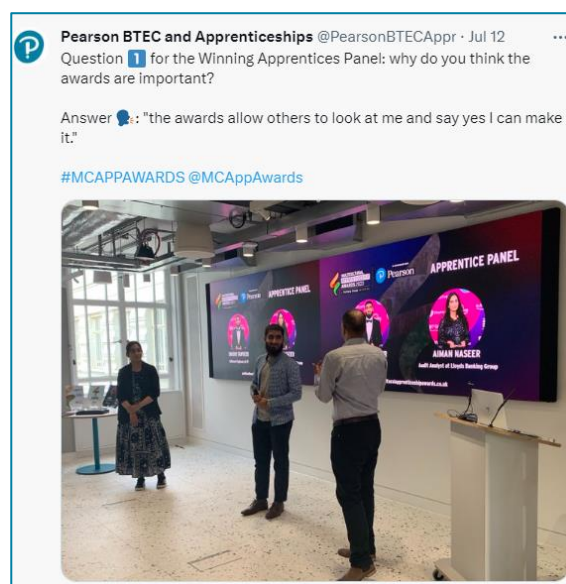
- The DfE has [published a summary](#) of the formal government response to its consultation on reforming the further education (FE) funding and accountability systems.
- It confirmed a number of actions including the introduction of the Adult Skills Fund, five adult skills funding bands, moving to a multi-year funding approach, updating the implementation timelines for the reforms, and confirming that all statutory FE providers are in scope.
- The full response is available [here](#).

Pearson news

BTEC Broadcast The July edition of the BTEC Broadcast includes an update on the Government's Level 3 reform, details on our Higher Nationals tuition fee giveaway, and some resources to support learners. To read this month's update and to subscribe to future ones [click here](#).



Pearson tweet of the week



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Other news

Parliamentary

- Commons: Health and Social Care Workforce
- WMS: Early Years Funding
- WMS: Update on Key Stage 2 attainment
- WMS: Early Years Update
- WMS: Teachers Update
- Lords: Creative Industries (Communications and Digital Committee Report)
- Lords: Lifelong Learning (Higher Education Fee Limits) Bill – committee stage
- Lords: Industrial Training Levy (Engineering Construction Industry Training Board) Order 2023
- Lords: Teacher Vacancies
- Education Committee: Teacher recruitment, training and retention (oral evidence)
- Science, Innovation and Technology Committee: The work of the Government Chief Scientific Adviser
- Health and Social Care Committee: Workforce plan (oral evidence)
- Education for 11-16 Year Olds Committee (oral evidence)
- Public Accounts Committee: The condition of school buildings (oral evidence)
- Women and Equalities Committee: New inquiry - The escalation of violence against women and girls
- Youth Affairs APPG: Empowering youth for the future of work – report

Regulatory and funding bodies

- Ofsted launches consultation for inspecting supported accommodation
- Ofsted: Subject report series: maths
- Ofsted: Subject report series: history
- ESFA Update: 12 July 2023
- ESFA: Further education adult skills funding rates and funding for innovative provision (updated)
- ESFA: Teachers' pay additional grant
- Ofqual: Regulating level 2 and below qualifications supporting progression to higher levels of study (consultation outcome)
- Ofqual: Regulating level 2 qualifications supporting progression to T Levels (consultation outcome)
- Ofqual: Proposed amendment to the assessment of Chinese and Japanese AS and A levels
- School Teachers' Review Body 33rd report: 2023
- Standards and Testing Agency: annual report and accounts 2022 to 2023
- UKRI: New hubs will lead innovation towards a net zero energy sector
- UKRI: New Future Research Assessment Programme reports published
- UKRI publishes annual report

Schools

- Joint Statement on Teachers' Pay: 13 July 2023
- Attainment in maths and writing SATs increases compared to 2022
- Key stage 2 attainment 2023: national headlines
- The reading framework (updated)
- Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework (new version)

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- Chinese and Japanese AS and A levels: proposed subject content (consultation outcome)
- Early years stronger practice hubs
- Ofsted: Mathematics education in schools is improving despite recruitment challenges
- Ofsted: Quality of history education continues to improve but inconsistency between schools remains
- EEF publishes evaluation of low cost early maths programme
- NFER: 6.5% pay rise unlikely to solve teacher supply problems on its own, particularly in STEM subjects
- Impetus: The Future of Tutoring
- IFS: Removing tax exemptions from private schools likely to have little effect on numbers in the private sector, raising £1.3–1.5 billion in net terms
- NFER comment on government pay announcement
- EPI comments on 2023/2024 teacher pay award
- NEU: Job quality of educational professionals before and after the pandemic

Further Education & Skills

- Expected post-16 level 3 qualifications for 2025
- Implementing a new FE funding and accountability system (consultation outcome)
- Implementing a new FE funding and accountability system: response summary
- T Level foundation year: national technical outcomes
- All systems are go for new space degree apprenticeship
- AoC: Teacher pay announcement: College sector response
- Youth Affairs APPG: Parliamentary inquiry concludes future of youth employment requires urgent action

Higher Education

- Widening participation in higher education: 2023
- Initial teacher training recruitment: candidate applications and numbers, June 2023
- ITT core content framework and early career framework: call for evidence (consultation outcome)
- UCAS: UK 18-year-olds make record number of applications for computing courses
- UCAS: 2023 cycle applicant figures – 30 June deadline
- HEPI: Despite some huge changes, the last 20 years of higher education policy have left some big questions unresolved

Scotland

- SFC: Latest REF review reports
- SFC: Demand for Scottish universities remains high

Wales

- Written Statement: Reducing workload and bureaucracy for school staff
- Written Statement: School improvement: the role and responsibilities of education partners
- Review of roles and responsibilities of education partners in Wales and delivery of school improvement arrangements: terms of reference
- Oral Statement: Progress on the Roll out of the new Curriculum
- Developing pupils' English reading skills from 10 to 14 years of age: government response

- [Qualifications Wales: Response to the Welsh Government White Paper: Proposals for a Welsh Language Education Bill](#)

Northern Ireland

- [Appointment of governing body members to five further education colleges](#)

Consultation Watch

New consultations

- [Ofsted: Proposals for inspecting supported accommodation](#) Closes: 8 September 2023
- [Ofqual: Regulating level 2 and below Progression Qualifications](#) Closes: 14 September 2023
- [Women and Equalities Committee: The escalation of violence against women and girls – call for evidence](#) Closes: 22 September 2023

Closing consultations

- [Welsh Government: Proposed changes to the suite of Regulations under which independent schools in Wales operate](#) Closes: 17 July 2023
- [Education Committee: Ofsted's work with schools](#) Closes: 20 July 2023
- [Improving support for children missing education](#) Closes: 20 July 2023
- [Welsh Government: Belonging, engaging and participating](#) Closes: 20 July 2023

Ongoing consultations

- [Early years foundation stage \(EYFS\): regulatory changes](#) Closes: 26 July 2023
- [Ensuring the resilience of the qualifications system](#) Closes: 2 August 2023
- [Northern Ireland: Consultation launched on Education budget allocation](#) Closes: 13 August 2023
- [Generative artificial intelligence in education call for evidence](#) Closes: 23 August 2023
- [Industry Training Board Review 2023 - call for evidence](#) Closes: 25 August 2023
- [Northern Ireland: Department for the Economy 2023/24 budget consultation EQIA](#) Closes: 30 August 2023
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children: changes to statutory guidance](#) Closes: 6 September 2023
- [Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners](#) Closes: 6 September 2023
- [Ofqual: GCSE qualifications in British Sign Language](#) Closes: 7 September 2023
- [GCSE British Sign Language \(BSL\): proposed subject content](#) Close: 8 September 2023
- [Changes to Ofsted's post-inspection arrangements and complaints handling: proposals 2023](#) Closes: 15 September 2023
- [Welsh Government: Proposed lists of unions and bodies eligible to nominate associate members of the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research](#) Closes: 29 September 2023

What's happening in Parliament next week

Monday 17 July

House of Commons

- Education Oral Questions

Westminster Hall

- e-petition 620264, relating to pay for teaching assistants (Tonia Antoniazzi, Lab, Gower)

House of Lords

- Baroness Burt of Solihull (Lib Dem) to ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's recommendation that the United Kingdom should prevent the use of religion as a selection criterion for school admissions in England.

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPG on Modern Languages
- APPG for Music Education

Tuesday 18 July

Commons Committees

- Education Committee: Government plans for Maths to 18 and Schools Funding (with Schools Minister Gibb)

All-Party Parliamentary Group

- APPG for Skills, Careers and Employment
- APPG for Digital Skills
- APPG on Supported Internships and Disability Employment

Wednesday 19 July

House of Commons

- Science, Innovation and Technology Oral Questions

All-Party Parliamentary Groups

- APPF on Deafness
- APPG on Social Mobility

Thursday 20 July

House of Commons

- Adjournment Debate: Employment of people with learning disabilities (Lee Anderson, Con, Ashfield)

House of Lords

- Baroness Lord Young of Cookham (Con) to ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce absenteeism in schools.

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