



Pearson

Policy Watch

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



The week in a nutshell

This week the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) [published a new report](#) revealing that the number of teacher vacancies posted by schools was 93% higher in the academic year up to February 2023, than at the same point in the year before the pandemic. The report calls for a long-term strategy on teacher pay to halt what it describes as a growing workforce crisis, as figures indicate that the initial teacher training (ITT) recruitment target is likely to be missed again.

Teacher training was a hot topic this week. The Education Committee [opened a new inquiry](#) into teacher recruitment, training, and retention, and launched an associated call for evidence to help with its work. The Committee will investigate the current state of teacher retention and recruitment, the main factors causing difficulties, and the impact on students. The call for evidence closes Friday 21 April.

The Department for Education (DfE) also [launched a call for evidence](#), seeking research that may inform amendments to the initial teacher training (ITT) core content framework and the early career framework (ECF). This closes on the same day. Additionally, DfE has [appointed an external steering group](#) to review both the initial teacher training (ITT) framework and Early Career Framework (ECF), made up of seven experts who are reportedly “closely familiar” with the reforms and underpinning evidence.

Meanwhile Ofqual launched a [new consultation](#) on changes that would allow students to take the Core Exam and Core Project – part of the Technical Qualification in a T Level – separately at their first attempt. The proposed change is intended to offer more flexibility. The consultation closes at 22:45 on 15 May.

Finally, Pearson published an [Insights: Onscreen Assessment](#), a report into progress being made around the adoption of onscreen assessments in schools.

Top stories

Unit for Future Skills publishes labour market projections

- The Department for Education's Unit for Future Skills has now published [UK labour market projections up to 2035](#) at the national, regional and local levels.
- The dashboard displays data by LEP, LSIP or MCA areas, projecting the types of jobs in the UK labour market, and the skills workers will need, up to 2035.
- These will be incorporated into the Unit's Local Skills Dashboard, so users can examine future trends in job growth at the local level.

TASO publishes report on online teaching

- The Centre for Transforming Access and Student Outcomes in Higher Education (TASO) has [published a new report](#) exploring the evidence on the impact of online teaching and learning on student outcomes before and during the pandemic, with a particular focus on the effect on students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- It found that the existing evidence is somewhat mixed; there are a small number of studies which suggest online teaching and learning can maintain or improve outcomes for some groups, but overall, the move to online learning appears associated with worse student outcomes.
- The pre-pandemic literature suggests that, compared to purely online learning, 'blended' learning is more likely to improve student attainment, whereas the literature produced during the pandemic demonstrates that the rapid shift to an online format had a negative impact on student outcomes.

Ofqual publishes annual qualifications market report

- The regulator Ofqual has [published its annual qualifications market report](#).
- There were 11,400 active qualifications (available qualifications with certificates) in the academic year 2021 to 2022, a 2.9% decrease on the previous year.
- In total 11.0 million certificates were issued for GCSE, AS, A level and vocational and other qualifications available for award in England over the 2021 to 2022 academic year, up 2.1% on 20 to 21.
- There were 6.1 million GCSE, AS and A level certificates awarded in the 2021 to 2022 academic year, down by 0.8% compared to the previous year.
- There were 4.9 million certificates awarded for vocational and other qualifications in the 2021 to 2022 academic year, up by 5.8% compared to the 2020 to 2021 academic year.
- The awarding organisations with the largest market shares in the academic year 2021 to 2022 were AQA (34.2%), Pearson (20.5%), OCR (6.7%) and City & Guilds (5.1%).

Pearson news

Insights: Onscreen Assessment Building on feedback from students who've already taken our live onscreen GCSE & International GCSE exams, 7,000+ teachers & experts, we're sharing our findings on what's needed to make onscreen exams an option for all in this [new report](#).

Pearson tweets of the week



Pearson Edexcel @PearsonEdexcel · Mar 22
Interested in becoming an Assessment Associate? Find out how you can get involved here: spr.ly/600238oNa

Become a
Pearson
examiner

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Other news

Parliamentary

- Commons: Budget Resolutions and Economic Situation
- Commons: Budget Resolutions and Economic Situation – final day
- Westminster Hall Debate: Social Mobility
- Westminster Hall Debate: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities: Specialist Workforce
- Public Bill Committee: Lifelong Learning (Higher Education Fee Limits) Bill (First sitting)
- Public Bill Committee: Lifelong Learning (Higher Education Fee Limits) Bill (Second sitting)
- Lords: International Higher Education Students
- Lords: Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill
- WMS: The UK's International Technology Strategy
- Education Committee launches new inquiry into teacher recruitment, training, and retention
- Education Committee: Correspondence from the Secretary of State regarding guidance for schools on transgender pupils, dated 10 March 2023
- Commons select committee changes, following machinery of government changes

Regulatory and funding bodies

- ESFA Update: 22 March 2023
- Ofqual: Annual qualifications market report: academic year 2021 to 2022
- Ofqual: Catherine Large OBE at the Annual Apprenticeship Conference
- Ofqual: Updating Qualification Level Conditions for T Level Technical Qualifications (Open consultation)
- OfS: Studying during rises in the cost of living – insight brief
- OfS: Formula capital funding: 2023 allocations
- QAA: New Director for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland appointed
- QAA: HEFCW-funded QAA Welsh Integrity and Assessment Network symposium event – call for submissions
- UKRI publishes equality, diversity and inclusion strategy
- UKRI launches new people and teams action plan

Schools

- School capacity in England: academic year 2021 to 2022
- Secretary of State launches Good Friday Agreement education resources
- Government bans unregulated accommodation for young people in care
- Providing supported accommodation for children and young people – guidance
- Introducing regulations for supported accommodation provision (Consultation outcome)
- Early education entitlements and funding
- NFER: Teacher vacancies almost twice pre-Covid level and recruitment target likely to be missed again
- NAHT: School leaders call for pause on Ofsted inspections after Ruth Perry tragedy
- NEU: Ofsted and school leader well-being
- ASCL calls for pause to Ofsted inspections following death of Ruth Perry

Further Education & Skills

- [Minister Robert Halfon speech to Hoxex Spring Network Event](#)
- [Labour market and skills projections: 2020 to 2035](#)
- [Retrofit: the workforce we need](#)
- [APPG For Youth Employment Launches New Inquiry In To Place Based Approaches To Youth Employment](#)

Higher Education

- [Plans to make UK an international technology superpower launched](#)
- [UK International Technology Strategy](#)
- [OfS: Universities take steps to address cost of living as poll highlights impact on students](#)
- [TASO: Online teaching and learning – lessons from the pandemic](#)
- [APPG for Students: Report of the inquiry into the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on students](#)

Scotland

- [Views sought on school learning hours](#)

Wales

- [Our national missions](#)
- [Education: our national mission](#)
- [Written Statement: Proposals to add to the categories of those required to register with the Education Workforce Council – second consultation response](#)
- [Written Statement: Whole School Approach to Oracy and Reading](#)

Northern Ireland

- [Further education colleges ‘the Way to Go’ to get the higher education skills you need](#)

Consultation Watch

New consultations

- [ITT core content framework and early career framework: call for evidence](#) Closes: 21 April 2023
- [Ofqual: Updating Qualification Level Conditions for T Level Technical Qualifications](#) Closes: 15 May 2023
- [Scottish Government: Prescribing the minimum annual number of learning hours](#) Closes 13 June 2023

Closing consultations

- [Lifelong Learning \(Higher Education Fee Limits\) Bill: call for evidence](#) Closes: 28 March 2023

Ongoing consultations

- [Office for Students: Consultation on payment of fees for investigations](#) Closes: 14 April 2023
- [Office for Students: Consultation on a new approach to regulating harassment and sexual misconduct in English higher education](#) Closes: 4 May 2023

Policy Watch

Week ending Friday 24 March 2023

- [Scottish Government: Rural and Islands College Merger proposal: Consultation](#) Closes: 5 May 2023
- [Use of reasonable force and restrictive practices in schools - Call for evidence](#) Closes: 11 May 2023
- [Ofqual: Regulating level 2 and below qualifications supporting progression to higher levels of study](#) Closes: 25 May 2023
- [Scottish Government: Review of the National Outcomes](#) Closes: 5 June 2023

What's happening in Parliament next week

Monday 27 March

Westminster Hall

- e-petitions 594065 and 617340, relating to home education

House of Lords

- Oral questions: Revising children's school meal regulations to reduce levels of processed sugar and incentives to encourage use of alternatives such as Stevia (Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe, Lab)

Tuesday 28 March

Westminster Hall

- Support for bereaved children (Christine Jardine, LD, Edinburgh West)

Public Bill Committees

- Lifelong Learning (Higher Education Fee Limits) Bill: To further consider the Bill

Commons Committees

- Education Committee: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Liaison Committee: The work of the Prime Minister

Lords Committees

- Industry and Regulators Committee: The work of the Office for Students

Wednesday 29 March

Commons Committees

- Treasury Committee: Budget 2023
- Women and Equalities Committee: National Disability Strategy

Lords Committees

- Public Services Committee: Review of the Children's social care implementation strategy and family hubs rollout

Thursday 30 March

House of Lords

- Debate: Financial pressure on Higher Education and the impact on local communities, the UK's science and innovation exports, and the impact on delivering the Turing Scheme (Lord Knight of Weymouth, Lab)

Lords Committees

- Education for 11–16 Year Olds Committee: Education for 11-16 year olds

Parliament will rise for Easter Recess at the end of business on Thursday 30 March, returning on Monday 17 April.