Governors' Weekly Bulletin
22 October 2019

UK Parliament - What's On: Teachers and Schools

There are many free, curricula-linked ways for teachers to get involved with UK Parliament in the 2019-20 academic year.

CPD
UK Parliament offers a range of free inspiring Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities to give teachers the confidence to teach pupils of all ages about democracy and active citizenship.

Resources
UK Parliament HAS A wide variety of curriculum-based resources to support primary and secondary teaching about Parliament and democracy.

School trips
Book a free school trip to UK Parliament where they can enhance their understanding of democracy in the place where laws are made. Schools visiting UK Parliament may be eligible for a subsidy to help with the costs of travel.

To find out more click here.

Time running out to get your free pack of trees

In a bid to increase the number of trees across Leicestershire, the county council has once again teamed up with the Woodland Trust to offer landowners and farmers free tree packs. Designed to help renew and restore existing woodland and vegetation, the packs aim to help regenerate countrysides that are under threat from diseases such as Ash Dieback. Each pack includes 45 native trees, and applicants can chose between two different packs containing either: birch, horn beam and oak; or birch, oak and wild cherry. To register for your free trees pack, please visit: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/LeicsTrees this opens another website in new window or call on 0330 333 5303. Please make sure you quote 'Leicestershire County Council trees'.

If you are a member of a community group, parish council or **school** you can apply for your trees at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/freetrees

To read more click on the link below. https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/time-running-out-to-get-your-free-pack-of-trees

Academy admissions

Click here to read about academy admissions and the role of ESFA.

Admission authorities must have determined their admissions arrangements for entry in September 2021 by 28 February 2020. They must publish them on their website and have sent a copy to their local authority before 15 March 2020.

ESFA Update academies: 9 October 2019

Click here to read the latest ESFA updates for academies

Academies financial returns

Click here to access guides and links to further information about financial returns academy trusts submit to the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

School resource management self-assessment tool

This tool can be used to reassure trusts that they are managing resources effectively and to identify any adjustments they need to make.

To access the tool click here.

The tool helps assure governing bodies and trust boards that they are meeting the right standards to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management. It can be used to identify areas for change to make sure resources are used to support high-quality teaching and the best education outcomes for pupils.

The tool consists of a checklist and a dashboard.

The checklist asks questions of governing bodies and trust boards in 6 areas of resource management. The dashboard shows how a school's data compares to thresholds on a range of statistics that have been identified by the Department for Education (DfE) as indicators of good resource management and outcomes.

All academy trusts must complete the self-assessment tool and submit their completed checklist to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by **14 November 2019.** The dashboard must be completed in order to answer the final question of the checklist, but does not need to be submitted. You may find it useful to complete the tool at other times, for example to compare your spending plans for next year to similar schools.

Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn 2018 and spring 2019

This report gives information on pupil absence in primary, secondary and special schools in autumn and spring terms of the 2018 to 2019 academic year.

This report provides information on the levels of overall, authorised and unauthorised absence in:
state-funded primary schools
state-funded secondary schools
special schools
pupil referral units

It includes information on:
reasons for absence
persistent absentees
pupil characteristics

To access the report please click here.

Exploring moving to home education in secondary schools

This exploratory study investigates the steps that parents, local authorities and schools take in order to move children from secondary school to home education. To read more click here.

The focus of this research is on moving to home education from secondary school. There are concerns about increasing evidence that home education can be a last resort for some families when relationships have broken down between schools and children or parents. The purpose of this research was, therefore, to understand more fully how moves to home education are made rather than about home education in general. We carried out a small, exploratory study in the East Midlands to help Ofsted improve its understanding of this area

---

Statutory policies for schools and academy trusts

Click here to read guidance on the policies and documents that governing bodies and proprietors of schools must have.

This document was updated by the DfE on 14 October. The updates are :-

14 October 2019 Updated document to reflect that the 'Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children' section also applies to academies, and that the data protection review every 2 years is a recommendation.

14 October 2019 Added a link to the statutory guidance for schools on providing careers guidance.

What is peer-on-peer abuse? Ofsted Blog

Sean Harford, National Director for Education, and Yvette Stanley, National Director for Social Care, discuss peer-on-peer abuse: what it is, what schools should be doing when it happens and how we've trained our inspectors to recognise it.

Peer-on-peer abuse includes, but is not limited to:
physical and sexual abuse
sexual harassment and violence
emotional harm
on and offline bullying
teenage relationship abuse

It can even include grooming children for sexual and criminal exploitation.
It's hard to say just how widespread a problem it is. But we know that there's extensive evidence of peer-on-peer abuse in the context of both sexual and criminal exploitation. In autumn last year, the NSPCC announced a 29% increase in children seeking help from Childline due to peer-on-peer sexual abuse. The issue has, understandably, been scrutinised in the media recently. To read more click here

What is off-rolling, and how does Ofsted look at it on inspection?

Dan Owen HMI, Specialist Adviser for school inspection policy, discusses how inspectors evaluate off-rolling on school inspections.

Off-rolling has received a lot of interest from the press and among school leaders and teachers recently. But as Ofsted-commissioned research published today suggests, different people have different definitions of what off-rolling is. At times this leads to confusion. While there's no legal definition of off-rolling, our definition within Ofsted is very simple. Off-rolling is the practice of removing a pupil from the school roll without using a permanent exclusion, when the removal is primarily in the best interests of the school, rather than the best interests of the pupil. This includes pressuring a parent to remove their child from the school roll.

While it may not always be unlawful, Ofsted believes off-rolling is never acceptable.

To read more click here.

Key stage 4 performance, 2019 (provisional)

Click here to read provisional statistics on the achievements of young people at the end of key stage 4 in England, in the 2018 to 2019 academic year.

Early years foundation stage profile results: 2018 to 2019

Click here to see the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) results for the 2018 to 2019 academic year, at national and local authority level.

This publication covers the:
percentage of children achieving each assessment rating in the early learning goals
percentage of children achieving at least the expected level in the prime areas of learning and in the specific areas of literacy and mathematics (a good level of development)
average total points score across all the early learning goals (the supporting measure)
percentage of children achieving at least the expected level within the communication and language, and literacy areas of learning

Additional tables providing national and local-authority-level information on EYFSP attainment by pupil characteristics will be published on 28 November 2019 via the Explore Education Statistics platform.

Pupil premium

The government is giving schools extra funding to help improve outcomes for disadvantaged children and other pupils who need extra support.

This document is for:
parents with children in primary or secondary schools
anyone with an interest in the pupil premium or disadvantaged children

It explains how the government:
is supporting schools to close the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers

expects schools to use the pupil premium
holds schools to account for their decisions

To access the document click <u>here.</u>

ESFA Update academies: 16 October 2019

Click <u>here</u> to read the latest updates for academies from the ESFA

School inspection data summary report (IDSR) guide

This guide gives an overview of the data contained in the primary inspection data summary report (IDSR) and information to help interpret the charts. To access the guide please click <u>here.</u>

Academies accounts return 2018/19 guidance for completing the online form

Click <u>here </u>to read the published guidance for academy trusts and auditors to help them complete the accounts return by the deadline, 20 January 2020.

Local authority interactive tool (LAIT)

Click <u>here </u>to see an interactive spreadsheet for comparing data about children and young people across all local authorities in England.

The local authority interactive tool (LAIT) presents information in interactive tables and charts with the local authority's rank and position in England.

It includes data on:
children looked after by local authorities
child protection
special educational needs and disability (SEND)
pupil attainment
children's health
post-16 circumstances
judgements from Ofsted

The 'Children's services statistical neighbour benchmarking tool' allows you to select a local authority and display its 'closest statistical neighbours' (local authorities with similar characteristics). More information is available in appendix A of the 'Local authority interactive tool: user guide'.