



SESLIP Education Network

Update: 19th November 2021

The SESLIP Covid-19 crisis advice is at: <https://www.seslip.co.uk/coronavirus-planning>

From SESLIP:

- Afghan refugee children ARAP / ARCS: A summary of current challenges has been prepared for the SESLIP DCSs to discuss on 3-12-21.
- School Improvement Grant consultation: Please send me copies of your responses / papers about the grant; feel free to use the attached as a format to submit these to me. I will then seek to assemble a summary as a response on behalf of SESLIP, before the closing date of 26-11-21.
- EHE JR: The judgement has been published in the judicial review about the evidence of 'suitable education' expected of EHE parents. The judge found in favour of Portsmouth City Council on all grounds: that the LA was correctly interpreting DfE guidance and seeking to work with the family and in the best interests of the child. Detailed judgement can be found here: <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2021/3057.html>

In Today's Update:

1. DfE: School Condition allocations information, settings funded by post-16 Capacity Fund, teacher internship webinars.
2. National reports: How to improve primary assessment, school innovation during covid-19.
3. Research: Analysis shows high levels of persistent absence this term; using simulations in teacher training.
4. News: Should the DfE be in 'special measures'? BTEC changes paused, dioceses put on pressure to academies, schools advised to pause renewing SIMS contracts, headteachers take on Chief Inspector about approach to inspections.

1. DfE:

- Updated eligibility criteria for School Condition funding allocations: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-capital-funding>
- Schools and colleges that will be funded from the post-16 Capacity Fund, including ones from Hants, Kent, Milton Keynes, Portsmouth, Southampton and Surrey. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-16-capacity-fund-2021-to-2022-successful-applications/post-16-capacity-fund-2021-to-2022-successful-applications>
- Information and webinars for school-led teacher internship programme for summer 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-internship-programme-summer-2022>

2. National Reports

- Review of the current arrangements for SATS and baseline assessment takes the view they are outmoded and too inflexible, as has been born out during Covid-19. Recommendations including switching away from high stakes pen-and-paper tests to online tests & to align testing more closely with progress through the curriculum. <https://www.edsk.org/publications/making-progress/>
- Challenge Partners set out examples of innovative practice developed in schools during the covid-19 pandemic that have used their quality review approach. <https://www.challengepartners.org/sites/default/files/files/Innovation%20in%20the%20Time%20of%20Covid%20what%20worked%20in%20our%20schools%20and%20where%20next%20v4.pdf>

3. Research:

- Analysis of persistent absence returns from large numbers of both primary and secondary schools. These demonstrate that levels of >20% and >30% absence are significantly higher than pre-covid-19 and particularly in vulnerable groups like those with SEND and FSM6.

<https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2021/11/how-many-primary-school-pupils-have-been-persistently-absent-so-far-this-year/> &
<https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2021/11/how-many-secondary-school-pupils-have-been-persistently-absent-so-far-this-year/>

- An account of using classroom simulations to support trainee teachers to practice and master instructional techniques through repetition. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2021/11/17/using-classroom-simulators-to-transform-teacher-preparation/>

4. News:

- Opinion piece by Alan Wood: "the DfE is our biggest LA [children's services]; if Ofsted were to inspect it, it would be in special measures". He calls for renewed partnership with LAs, rather than obsessive academisation. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/the-dfe-is-our-biggest-la-and-should-be-in-special-measures/>
- DfE pauses the withdrawal of funding for BTECs as part of a rethink of the changes to level 3 qualifications. <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/nov/15/government-pauses-plan-to-abolish-technical-qualifications>
- Voluntary-aided schools that are not academies are facing pressure from dioceses to join a church-led MAT. There has been some clarification from church leaders that academisation is voluntary. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/church-schools-facing-forced-academy-conversion/>
- Increase in funding for Ofsted so it can inspect all schools and colleges by summer 2025. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/ofsted-to-inspect-all-schools-by-2025-after-24m-funding-boost/>
- DfE advises schools to pause their decision to enter into a new, extended contract for SIMS with its new provider Parent Pay. Data managers warn that this is all short notice. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/schools-told-to-hold-off-on-three-year-mis-contract/>
- HMCI faces tough questions from headteachers about the approach Ofsted has taken to the resumption of school inspections. <https://www.tes.com/news/spielman-grilled-heads-over-ofsteds-return>