

## SESLIP Education Network

Update: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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

### In Today's Update:

1. DfE: Guidance about school uniforms, to join a MAT, or not, research, ministerial statement on early years funding for 2022-23.
2. National reports: 2021 ADCS EHE survey findings, NAO on school financial sustainability, analysis showing the growing intergenerational gap over the past 10 years, cost of supporting children in care could double by 2025,
3. Research: Confidence a key ingredient of maths success; being in a lower or middle set or stream in primary affects pupil wellbeing.
4. News: Ofsted consult on regulating online learning, >30% in numbers reported as EHE, list of candidates for RSC advisory boards, rethink on MFL GCSE changes urged.

#### 1. DfE:

- Statutory guidance for schools and LAs about school uniform policies and working with suppliers to keep costs reasonable. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-school-uniforms>
- Analysis of telephone survey of headteachers about satisfaction with, barriers to, or reasons for not, joining a MAT. Heads were surveyed during June 2021. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1033936/Academisation\\_research\\_report\\_FINAL\\_NOV\\_21.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033936/Academisation_research_report_FINAL_NOV_21.pdf)
- Ministerial statement confirms the size of early years funding increases for 2022-23. These include increases to the EY premium and to the hourly funding rates for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-11-25/hcws421>

#### 2. National Reports

- Analysis of the 2021 survey of LAs about home education. Report finds a further, significant increase in total numbers who are EHE, high levels of churn and that covid fears feature high in parents reasons for deregistration. [https://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS\\_EHE\\_Survey\\_2021\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS_EHE_Survey_2021_Report_FINAL.pdf)
- National Audit Office assesses the financial sustainability of schools in England. Although largely pre-covid-19, most mainstream schools are in reasonable financial health. Significant numbers of maintained secondary schools' finances are under pressure and some MATs are assembling high levels of reserves. The DfE and ESFA are recommended to improve the reliability of the data they use to assess finances in schools and MATs. <https://www.nao.org.uk/report/financial-sustainability-of-schools-in-england/>
- Analysis documents ten years when the opportunities and support for young people have largely reduced which has fuelled a widening of the intergenerational gap. For example: in 2018/2019, the government spent approximately £20,800 on each pensioner in comparison to £14,700 on each child. [https://www.if.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Left-Behind-A-Decade-of-Intergenerational-Unfairness\\_Curtis\\_Banks.pdf](https://www.if.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Left-Behind-A-Decade-of-Intergenerational-Unfairness_Curtis_Banks.pdf)
- County Council Network shows how the support and spending on children's services have declined since 2014-15. Whilst the number in care continues to increase and are estimated to be a third higher by 2025, involving a doubling of spend on care between 2015 - 2025. <https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/download/3960/>

### **3. Research:**

- Large study of maths pupils in the UK confirms that confidence in maths is correlated with likelihood of correctly answering and confidence is lower among disadvantaged pupils. There is a hypercorrection effect, where those who are more confident are more likely to correct an error in an answer. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10649-021-10084-7>
- UK cohort study finds an association between hyperactivity and other conduct difficulties and, when ability grouping or streaming have been adopted in their primary school, being placed in a middle or lower ability grouping. The researchers highlight that schools should consider whether some children's wellbeing is being compromised by how teaching is organised. <https://srcd.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cdev.13674?af=R>

### **4. News:**

- Ofsted's plans for regulation and quality assurance of online learning providers could see providers facing a fee of as much as £10k to be accredited. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/large-online-educators-face-10k-bill-for-ofsted-accreditation-visits/>
- Latest ADCS survey of elective home education reports more than 30% increase in the number of children reported to LAs in 12 months. There is also a high level of churn in numbers. Calls are made for the DfE to introduce a registration scheme. <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/nov/24/councils-england-report-34-rise-elective-home-education-children>
- Lists of MAT candidates for the RSC advisory boards. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/advisory-board-elections-rsc-headteacher-candidate-list-regional/>
- A range of leading education groups call on the DfE to rethink proposed changes to MFL GCSEs. The proposals are criticised for expecting too little vocabulary and building in too a large gap between GCSEs and A-levels. <https://www.tes.com/news/gcses-heads-and-exam-boards-reject-risky-mfl-reforms>
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