

SESLIP Education Network

Update: 29th April 2022



In Today's Update:

- DfE: Ofsted publishes 5-year strategy, school workforce analysis, financial overview of MATs.
- National reports: Survey sheds light on school funding crisis.
- Research: Education system leadership survey to complete / circulate.
- News: Warnings about too rapid MAT expansion, challenging assumptions in the classroom, headline content of Ofsted's strategy, is it time to refresh pupil premium? KS5 subject choice: comparison of disadvantaged students and their peers, pressures on the SEND system in England, official investigation into SIMS, new secure school very over budget.

1. DfE:

- Ofsted publishes its new 5-year strategy, detailing where its increase in funding will be deployed to, including anticipated new powers to intervene to close illegal schools.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-strategy-2022-to-2027>
- School workforce research is published covering the period 2010 to 2020. Findings include that the average age of headteachers is no longer on a younger trend and that the demographic profile of school leaders (middle and senior) is becoming more diverse.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1071794/School_leadership_in_England_2010_to_2020_characteristics_and_trends_-_report.pdf
- Full breakdown of MAT cumulative financial positions for 2020-21, as compared with 2019-20, including accumulation of reserves. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/academy-trust-revenue-reserves-2020-to-2021>

2. National Reports

- Latest annual survey of headteachers and other school leaders about school funding and use of pupil premium funds. Responses paint a picture of budgets that are overstretched: 33% headteachers report using pupil premium to plug gaps in general funds; more primaries report funding insufficiency (68%) than secondaries (47%). <https://www.suttontrust.com/our-research/school-funding-and-pupil-premium-2022/>.

3. Research

- Survey about leadership of the education system for LA leaders, MAT leaders and heads, from the Education Policy Institute. You might want to complete it yourself and also share with your heads and leaders of local MATs. <https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/which-school-groups-are-most-successful-and-why-epi-seeks-school-leaders-views/>

4. News:

- Warnings about pushing MATs into expansion too rapidly, as termination warning notices are served by the RSC for the north of England to two MATs. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/academy-trust-growth-must-be-sustainable/>
- Useful blog post about using assessments and quizzes to challenge assumptions about learning and engagement in the classroom, among students and staff.
<https://theeffortfuleducator.com/2022/03/29/assuming/>
- Headline content of Ofsted's new five year strategy, which confirms their commitment to inspect all schools by June 2025 and plans for the introduction of inspections for MATs and LSCBs.
<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/ofsteds-5-year-strategy-what-you-need-to-know/>

- Reflections on the pupil premium 11 years after its implementation. The allocation has been eroded due to inflation. Should there be a renewed emphasis on early years premium and on the 'persistently disadvantaged'? <https://www.tes.com/magazine/analysis/general/i-helped-design-pupil-premium-funding-it-needs-updating-urgently>
- Analysis of subject choice at KS 5 shows that disadvantaged students are half as likely to choose an academic route that their peers, although both sets of students are equally likely to opt for technical qualifications. <https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2022/04/do-disadvantaged-students-choose-different-subjects-from-their-peers-at-key-stage-5/>
- Evidence that many special schools are over capacity with more pupils than their commissioned places, in response to demand for places due to increasing numbers of pupils with EHCPs. Often this is a response to parent preference and to save the LA placing a pupil in more expensive independent provision. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/no-place-to-go-special-schools-capacity-crisis-revealed/> . Together with further evidence of the pressures on LA high needs budgets that, for many councils, are £millions over budget. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/revealed-the-spiralling-cost-of-a-broken-send-system/>
- Competition and Markets Authority launch an official investigation into Parent Pay and the recent contract changes for their SIMS management information service. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/watchdog-probes-sims-provider-over-abusing-dominant-position/>
- First of the promised secure schools, being developed in Medway by Oasis MAT, is three years overdue and £31 million over the original budget estimate. Young offender numbers are expected to double over the coming years. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/first-secure-school-3-years-behind-schedule-and-31m-over-budget/>