

SESLIP Education Network

Update: 1st July 2022



From SESLIP:

- AD Education Network meeting today: attached are the Portsmouth lead member's briefing about the implications of new attendance guidance and key points from the CME Group about the guidance; information from the SESLIP High Needs Budgets Forum about the project on independent SEND placements.

In Today's Update:

1. DfE: Revised Schools Causing Concern guidance, report based on March survey schools, LA place planning scorecard, updated Virtual School Guidance, EET stats for 16-18 year olds, post-16 choices consultation.
2. National reports: KS2 pupils catching-up but KS1 still lag behind pre-pandemic pupils, Gatsby Foundation launches a guide to the education system for employers.
3. Research: Early years inequalities in the UK have changed little over the past 20 years, articles on evidence into practice.
4. News: Young men's involvement in work is falling, CAMHS failings linked to girl's suicide, DfE 'pauses' key parts of the Schools Bill and to review elements dealing with MAT regulation, campaign for free covid tests in schools, tough year with out-of-touch DfE - ASCL end of year review, DfE disputes with LAs about high needs funds.

1. DfE:

- Schools Causing Concern guidance has been updated following consultation and will be for implementation from September. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-causing-concern--2>
- Report of the regular panel survey of teachers and school leaders, from March 2022. Themes addressed, in addition to behaviour and staff health, include swimming provision and delivery of remote learning. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1087043/School_and_college_panel_March_2022_Report.pdf
- The latest school place planning scorecard that includes data for 2020-21 has been published. The scorecard aims to show progress in the LA area with meeting the demand for primary or secondary school places. <https://department-for-education.shinyapps.io/la-school-places-scorecards/>
- Update to the guidance for Virtual Schools covering the extended responsibilities for all children who have a social worker, from 1-9-22. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/virtual-school-head-role-extension-to-children-with-a-social-worker>
- NEET and participation statistics for 16 - 18 year olds for 2021. The figures report the highest rate of being NEET (aged 16 - 17) since 2013; however, the employment rates for 18 year olds are the highest for over 20 years. <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/participation-in-education-and-training-and-employment/2021>
- Consultation launched about implementation of legal requirement for all schools to give opportunities for providers of technical education and apprenticeships to talk to year 8-13 pupils to discuss their education and training options. <https://consult.education.gov.uk/careers-unit/access-to-schools-for-education-and-training-provi/>

2. National reports:

- Analysis from RS Assessments finds whilst there has been considerable catch up at KS2, there is still some lag in test scores for writing, punctuation and spelling. However, at KS1, assessments suggest

there is a learning lag across English and maths and pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds are under performing too. https://www.risingstars-uk.com/media/Rising-Stars/Assessment/Whitepapers/Spring22_RS_Assessment_white_paper.pdf

- A guide for employers to help them to understand the education system across England and the changes in qualifications and structures. <https://educationlandscape.org.uk/>

3. Research:

- Longitudinal research into the early years in England demonstrates that inequalities in cognition and social / emotional development have changed little over the past 20 years, despite unprecedented investment. However, disconnected policies across housing (benefits cap), benefits (two child limit) and SureStart reductions do not help. Effective policies should include addressing income gaps and the home environment and education opportunities. <https://ifs.org.uk/inequality/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Early-childhood-inequalities-IFS-Deaton-Review-2.pdf>
- A compendium of recent educational research from BERA with a focus on translation of evidence into practice in schools and into policy areas. [https://bera-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/\(ISSN\)2049-6613.Evidence-policy-practice](https://bera-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1002/(ISSN)2049-6613.Evidence-policy-practice)

4. News:

- Looking beneath the surface of data showing more 18-24 year olds are economically active shows mixed themes. More young women working, partly due to continued falls in teenage pregnancies, but the number of young men who are inactive in the jobs market has nearly doubled since 2000. <https://www.ft.com/content/388440d8-2dc7-4e3f-8107-b4b55edb8c6c>
- Coroner finds that there were severe failings in the care offered by a CAMHS service in Sussex that amounted to neglect and contributed to a young woman's death by suicide. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/jun/29/coroner-issues-warning-on-nhs-mental-health-services-robyn-skilton>
- More details about the withdrawal of several clauses from the Schools Bill by the DfE in response to criticism in the Lords. Including a copy of the letter to peers with details of the proposed changes and MAT regulation review. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/zahawi-guts-his-own-schools-bill-in-humiliating-climbdown/>
- Details of the DfE's review of its proposed powers to regulate MATs following push back from peers to the Schools Bill. Current timetable suggests this review will run while the legislation is still going through Parliament. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/review-launches-to-future-proof-role-of-academy-trusts>
- The number of covid cases is currently high and, as a result student absences. Schools call for access to free testing kits to be reinstated from the beginning of the autumn term. <https://www.sec-ed.co.uk/news/rise-in-absence-sparks-testing-call-as-covid-variants-hit-omicron-schools-attendance-pandemic-staff-pupils/>
- Comment piece from ASCL reflecting on a difficult academic year for schools. It also comments on how policy in the DfE is focused on a power grab whilst ignoring day-to-day challenges faced by schools. <https://www.sec-ed.co.uk/blog/fiddling-while-rome-burns-school-budgets-funding-accountability-white-paper-schools-bill-ascl-geoff-barton/>
- DfE withholds funds from one of its SEND safety valve LAs, whilst other councils are told to no longer run deficit high needs budgets to a total of £269 million. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/council-deficits-send-spending-bailouts-funding/>
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