

SESLIP Education Network

Update: 15th July 2022



In Today's Update:

1. DfE: Review of MAT regulation: advisory group membership and ToFR, updated behaviour guidance for schools plus searching and confiscation guidance, updated suspension and exclusions guidance for schools, research with parents on EY and childcare, Ofsted revised inspection handbook for early years, evaluation of teacher assessed grades, NTP guidance for schools.
2. National reports: Report on shaping national plan for education, priorities for a fairer economy by 2030 illustrate future world of work for pupils.
3. Research: Mental health in schools: mindfulness little value as a whole school approach, but there are ways to identify schools with higher SEMH need. How difficult can it be to test the link between breastfeeding and intelligence? As it turns out: very! Early analysis of students and wave 1& 2 T-levels.
4. News: Survey of heads finds increasing difficulties when recruiting teachers, how schools assisted covid research, opposition amendments for Schools Bill, a deeper look at persistent absence data, new Schools Minister will also lead on SEND, regulator gives thumbs up to school league tables, shortage of school governors hits 6-year high.

1. DfE:

- Review of the regulation and commissioning of academies / MATs: the DfE sets out the terms of reference and membership for its Advisory Group with the purpose to work towards a MAT-led education system. <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/academies-regulation-and-commissioning-review-advisory-group>
- Updated Behaviour in Schools guidance for implementation from September, including a requirement to record pupil isolation data. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1089687/Behaviour_in_Schools_guidance_July_2022.pdf and guidance on searching / confiscations at school, updated following the pupil Q case. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>
- Updated suspensions and exclusions guidance for schools. Headteachers can still rescind a PEx, all schools are required to inform LA of all suspensions without delay, and guidance for off-site directions and managed moves. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1089688/Suspension_and_Permanent_Exclusion_guidance_July_2022.pdf
- Qualitative about parents' views about early years and childcare. Insights about how parents identify and select childcare and blocks in the system, for example for single parents. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1087314/Childcare_report.pdf
- Ofsted has revised its handbook for early years settings for implementation from September. It reflects updates to the EYFS and has a separate section now for inspection of childminders. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-inspection-handbook-eif>
- Ofqual publishes its evaluation of the experience of teacher assessed grades (TAGs) last year (informed by a self-selection survey). Most teachers found the process stressful and were not keen to repeat. About half of students responded they felt TAGs were fair, but about a third did not feel well-prepared for the next stage of their learning. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1089191/22-6933-1_Teacher_Assessed_Grades_in_summer_2021_-_Surveys.pdf

- Guidance for schools about using the National Tutoring Programme in 2022-23.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1089182/NTP_Guidance_for_Schools.pdf

2. National reports:

- The Foundation for Education Development's report about the future shape of education in England, based on consultations with the sector. The lack of long-term planning from Government and weaknesses at the middle tier are highlighted, together with education that is not sufficiently equipping young people for future needs, such as use of technology. <https://fed.education/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/fed-national-consultation-report-2022.pdf>
- Interim report about achieving a fairer economy in the UK by 2030, highlights how wide the divide continues to be between rich areas and poor: average incomes in the richest LA area (Kensington) are 4x those in the poorest (Nottingham). Due to changes in work patterns around 8 million young workers (under 30) have never worked in jobs with reliable annual wage rises. <https://economy2030.resolutionfoundation.org/reports/stagnation-nation/>

3. Research:

- Large mental health study from the UK finds no evidence for additional benefits for secondary students of a whole-school mindfulness programme over-and-above the support routinely in place in school. There was too little use made by students of mindfulness as a result of the lessons. <https://ebmh.bmj.com/content/ebmental/early/2022/07/07/ebmental-2021-300396.full.pdf> An earlier paper from the same research programme explored indicators that suggest a school in need of additional resource to support mental health and wellbeing. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S089085672100143X>
- Excellent overview of research about breastfeeding and intelligence, and why studies struggle to generate a reliable conclusion. It is a helpful reminder about ways to question and test published research. <https://stuartritchie.substack.com/p/breastfeeding-iq>
- Early analysis of T-levels and student preparedness, based on the 2021 students and the four wave 1 and 2 T-level subjects. Overlap with other technical courses varied between 20% and 80% dependent on subject. To be T-level ready, a 4 or better at GCSE English and maths is seen as key and between 70% and 81% of students on equivalent technical courses did not have this. <https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/t-levels-students-taking-overlapping-qualifications-and-take-up/>

4. News:

- Summary of a survey from ASCL about teacher recruitment and retention. Nearly all respondents report difficulties recruiting to vacancies and over 70% are using supply teachers to cover vacancies. <https://www.ascl.org.uk/News/Our-news-and-press-releases/ASCL-survey-shows-teacher-shortages-at-crisis-point>
- Reflections on the partnership between schools and health protection during the pandemic. The evidence gathered from schools both helped keeping schools open and enabled lessons to be learned about the progress of Covid-19. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/why-schools-pandemic-lessons-are-not-just-for-the-children/>
- Labour tables amendments to the Schools Bill that offer some insight into the Party's future thinking about education. Amendments proposed include a framework, so academies must follow the national curriculum and adhere to local admissions arrangements. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/labour-plans-to-curtail-academy-freedoms-in-schools-bill-amendment/>

- Interesting analysis of a large number of schools' absence data for autumn and spring which sheds light persistent absenteeism whilst making some allowance for covid absences. In brief, primary absences are similar to pre-covid-19 whilst secondaries have higher levels. <https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2022/07/alternative-measures-of-persistent-absence-an-update/>
- Will Quince MP returns to the DfE as Schools Minister. He will also retain responsibility for SEND and the progress of the SEND Green Paper. <https://www.tes.com/magazine/news/general/will-quince-schools-minister-send-green-paper>
- Statistics regulator has assessed how the DfE publishes school league table and other performance data. Largely positive assessment is given, with new expectations about clear information on the impact of covid to accompany summer 2022 GCSE results. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/gcse-league-tables-are-they-up-to-scratch/>
- A survey from the NGA finds two thirds of governing bodies are carrying at least one vacancy, the highest for 6 years. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/nga-governor-trust-school-boards-trustee-recruitment/>
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