

## SESLIP AD Education Network Update: November 8<sup>th</sup> 2024

### In Today's Update:

- DfE: Ofsted inspection training videos published, update school improvement guidance, , DfE ending grants for academy conversion, guidance on asbestos management, National Education Nature Park funding allocations for schools, schools in the Schools Rebuilding Programme.
- National reports: 20 years of cuts & narrow accountability, Demos considers the root of LA financial woes and an approach to address these, job market understanding that helps young people into the workforce.
- Research: Analysis of Phonics Screening Check questions whether it impacts positively on reading, strategy to improve retention of maths facts in primary-age pupils.
- News: Education headlines from the Budget, School Improvement Hub launched, DfE plans for regional inspection teams, hints at changes such as LAs opening new schools or an academy becoming LA maintained.

#### **1. DfE:**

- Ofsted starts making videos of inspection training publicly available. These first videos are about school inspections with further uploads due covering the full range of Ofsted inspections.  
<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/ofsted-school-inspector-training-videos>
- Update to statutory school improvement guidance that sets out how local authorities and regions group will intervene at a school level, shifting the emphasis to support and intervention and paving the way for implementation of school report cards from Sept 2025.  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/672384368812c830eb8c1e0b/Support\\_and\\_intervention\\_in\\_schools\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/672384368812c830eb8c1e0b/Support_and_intervention_in_schools_guidance.pdf)
- Latest update for grants to convert to an academy state that this term's applications will be the last round of available funding. There are also no plans to offer further rounds of Trust Capacity Funds for trusts to takeover additional schools. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-the-academy-conversion-support-grant>
- Non-statutory guidance for schools about managing any asbestos in their buildings built before 2000. It emphasises that leaders locate any asbestos present and manage it effectively.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-asbestos-in-your-school-or-college/managing-asbestos-in-your-school-or-college>
- National Education Nature Park guidance and allocations, listing a further 85 schools in the South-east eligible for the grant in 2024-25. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nature-park-and-climate-action-awards-funding-allocations>
- Schools Rebuilding Programme information setting out the selection criteria used and listing the schools selected, including 50 schools in the South-east.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-rebuilding-programme-schools-in-the-programme>

#### **2. Reports:**

- Excellent document reflecting on 20 years of education policy in England, from a leading policy writer. With so much focus on Ofsted definitions of school improvement and the number of schools that are good or better, has there been a masking of a wider range of challenges across the school system that are now coming to a head? He typifies the past 20 years of being a period of real-terms cuts and aggressive and narrow accountability. <https://www.suttontrust.com/our-research/lessons-learned/>
- Based on views of an expert panel, Demos publishes its proposed vision for local government reform, particularly of finances, in the light of the current crises faced by many LAs. SEND funding features, with the core proposal being to move the financial responsibility for demand-led provision to strategic

trusts funded directly by central government where it argues finance and cost pressures can be more effectively pooled. Rather LAs should be focused on place-based services and preventative activity and finance reforms include making changes to council tax and for a property revaluation.

[https://demos.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Beyond-the-sticking-plaster\\_2024\\_Oct.pdf](https://demos.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Beyond-the-sticking-plaster_2024_Oct.pdf)

- Report about young people's prior knowledge of occupations and levels of education, dependent on their background and level of qualifications and how well informed they are to enter the labour market. The research has some limits to its method, however offers some further insights about equipping young people better and some areas of questioning could be adapted for use in the secondary classroom. <https://www.speakersforschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Things-worth-knowing-Oct-2024.pdf>

### **3. Research**

- Exploring the Phonics Screening Check (PDC) and whether there is evidence that its introduction has contributed to improvement in reading among children. The report finds little evidence of PSC's positive impact on reading and that there could well be unintended consequences, for example as a result of additional phonics time in lessons over the weeks leading up to the test and the results being used for ability grouping. [https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/FINAL\\_PSC-report-Nov.pdf](https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/FINAL_PSC-report-Nov.pdf)
- Incremental retrieval found to be an effective method to boost understanding of maths for primary-aged pupils in the US. Pupils retain new knowledge better once they have been supported to retain previous, relevant maths facts and this also offers potential to personalise learning based on previous retrieval practise. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281801350\\_Effect\\_of\\_Modifying\\_Intervention\\_Set\\_Size\\_With\\_Acquisition\\_Rate\\_Data\\_While\\_Practicing\\_Single-Digit\\_Multiplication\\_Facts](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281801350_Effect_of_Modifying_Intervention_Set_Size_With_Acquisition_Rate_Data_While_Practicing_Single-Digit_Multiplication_Facts)

### **4. News:**

- Headline announcements from the Budget that will impact on education. Additional funding for high needs will largely only cover LA deficits and further announcements are awaited about long-term reforms and the statutory override. Although there is more capital for school buildings it is only an incremental rise and the government's estimates of the affect of VAT on private schools, show an estimate of 6% reduction in numbers of pupils in independent schools and a mechanism for LAs to reclaim VAT on children with an EHCP in independent schools. <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/budget-2024-most-of-1bn-send-injection-will-plug-deficits/>
- School Improvement Hub: an initiative by CST and ImpactEd to showcase school improvement strategies in action between academies and trust and within trusts. <https://schoolimprovementhub.org/case-studies/>
- Plans outlined for DfE's regional improvement teams (RISE) and adverts for the posts go live imminently. Drawing on information from Ofsted's new report card, teams will either signpost to resources, broker targeted support from an LA or trust or recommend intervention. <https://www.tes.com/magazine/news/general/dfe-outlines-plans-regional-support-and-intervention-RISE-teams>
- Using their database of attendance for around 8,500 schools, analysis of the trends for school absence for last academic year and the start of this. The levels of severe absence appear to be stubbornly level. <https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2024/11/pupil-absence-at-the-start-of-autumn-term-2024/>
- When speaking to the CST conference the SofS hints at further system changes, including law to enable struggling academies to move to maintained status and for LAs to be able to open new schools (whilst reviewing the current tranche of free school proposals). <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/phillipson-open-to-academies-returning-to-council-oversight/>