

Safeguarding Children Information Update
Live Consultations
Updated 11th January 2018

Eligibility for the free early years entitlement for two-year-olds under Universal Credit (04/12/17)

We are inviting views on our proposals for the free early years entitlement eligibility criteria for two-year-olds under Universal Credit.

This consultation document explains the general principles we have taken into account in considering changes to the eligibility criteria for the free early education entitlement for two-year-olds in light of the introduction of Universal Credit. Our intention is that these entitlements reach less advantaged households in a way that is consistent, fair and simple.

The document also explains our plans for communicating these changes to parents, early years providers and local authorities, as well as the steps we will take to support their implementation.

Closing date: 15th January 2018

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/early-years-funding/eligibility-for-the-free-early-years-entitlement-f/>

Changes to Ofsted's statistical reporting of inspection outcomes for maintained schools and academies (30/11/17)

Ofsted would like your views on proposals to change the way we report statistics on inspection outcomes for maintained schools and academies.

This consultation seeks your views on proposed new arrangements for the reporting of maintained school and academy inspection outcomes, namely:

- making the data more comprehensive and accessible
- changing the presentation of some of the aggregated analysis
- minor changes to releases to improve naming and usability

Closing date: 18th January 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-ofsted-s-statistical-reporting-of-inspection-outcomes-for-maintained-schools-and-academies>

Reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention (29/11/17)

The DH is consulting on draft guidance on reducing the need for restraint and restrictive intervention for children and young people with learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorder and mental health needs.

The consultation is seeking views on how well this draft guidance helps a range of settings and services to support children recognised as being at higher risk of restraint. The guidance applies to health and care settings and special educational settings.

The DH and the DfE commissioned the Council for Disabled Children to draft this guidance.

Closing date: 24th January 2018

<https://consultations.dh.gov.uk/dementia-and-disabilities/reducing-the-need-for-restraint/>

Residential Accommodation for 16-18 year olds: National Minimum Standards
(07/11/17)

This consultation seeks your views on updated national minimum standards for residential accommodation in FE colleges, sixth form colleges, designated institutions and 16-19 academies. These standards are published by the Secretary of State under section 87C of the Children Act 1989 and are relevant to the duty to safeguard and promote the well-being of children accommodated at these types of institutions.

Ofsted inspects against these standards in order to decide whether the corporation, governing body or proprietor of the institution is complying with the duty to safeguard and promote the well-being of such children (under section 87(1) of the Children Act 1989), and they may also be used for self-assessment and staff training.

Closing date: 26th January 2018

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/fe-college-quality-and-resilience-team/residential-accommodation-for-16-18-year-olds-nati-1/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fe-residential-accommodation-national-minimum-standards>

Changes to teaching of SRE and PSHE (19/12/17)

The DfE is considering how to update the existing Sex and Relationship guidance which, was last updated in 2000, and is therefore now out of date. The updated guidance will support schools in delivering the new subjects of Relationships Education at primary and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) at secondary, as well as, potentially, Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE).

Closing date: 12th February 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-teaching-of-sex-and-relationship-education-and-pshe>
<https://consult.education.gov.uk/life-skills/pshe-rse-call-for-evidence/>

Keeping children safe in education: proposed revisions (14/12/17)

The DfE invites your views on changes to the statutory guidance Keeping children safe in education (KCSIE) and a new departmental non-statutory advice document covering sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges.

The consultation seeks views on revisions to KCSIE, the statutory guidance to which all schools and colleges must have regard when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. KCSIE sets out the legal duties that schools and colleges must comply with, together with good practice guidance on what schools and colleges should do in order to keep children safe.

The guidance is extensive, covering what staff should know and do to safeguard children, the management of safeguarding in schools and colleges, safer recruitment and responding to allegations of abuse against staff. The department keeps its statutory guidance under review and revises it as required to keep it up to date and relevant.

We are consulting on a wide variety of proposed changes to KCSIE. The aim is to help schools and colleges to better understand what they are required to do by law and what we strongly advise they should do in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

We have made changes throughout KCSIE to reflect the changes colleagues are making, in parallel, to Working Together to Safeguard Children. WT is being consulted on separately and any resulting revisions to the final version will be reflected in KCSIE.

In addition, this consultation also seeks views on a new departmental non-statutory advice document covering sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges.

Closing date: 22nd February 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/keeping-children-safe-in-education-proposed-revisions>

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/safeguarding-in-schools-team/keeping-children-safe-in-education/>

Early education and childcare workforce: level 2 qualifications (07/12/17)

We are seeking views on the proposed early years assistant (level 2) criteria and their suitability for qualifications in early education and childcare.

We'd like your views on the proposed criteria for the minimum content of level 2 early years assistant qualifications.

The early years workforce strategy set out our intention to develop criteria for level 2 childcare qualifications. Criteria for early years educators (level 3) are already available.

Closing date: 28th February 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/early-education-and-childcare-workforce-level-2-qualifications>

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/childcare-providers-and-regulation/improving-level-2-qualifications-for-the-early-edu/>

Transforming children and young people's mental health provision (04/12/17)

The government is asking people for their views on a green paper setting out measures to improve mental health support for children and young people.

The green paper focuses on earlier intervention and prevention, especially in and linked to schools and colleges.

The proposals include:

- creating a new mental health workforce of community-based mental health support teams
- every school and college will be encouraged to appoint a designated lead for mental health
- a new 4-week waiting time for NHS children and young people's mental health services to be piloted in some areas

Closing date: 2nd March 2018

<https://engage.dh.gov.uk/youngmentalhealth/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/transforming-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-provision-a-green-paper>

Wales sets out plans to end the physical punishment of children (09/01/18)

The Minister for Children and Social Care, Huw Irranca-Davies, has today launched a 12 week consultation on the Welsh Government's proposal to remove the defence of reasonable punishment in Wales - part of a much wider package of measures the Welsh Government is taking to support children to have the best start in life, and to support their parents to do the best job they can.

The Welsh Government has a long standing record of working to ensure children have the best start in life and of promoting children's rights. This is why the Welsh Government is now intending to bring forward legislation to make it clear that physically punishing a child is no longer acceptable in Wales.

The proposed legislation would not involve the creation of a new offence. It would instead remove a defence to the existing offences of assault and battery. It would mean any adult looking after a child would no longer be able to use physical or corporal punishment against them.

The Minister said the Welsh Government's aim was to accelerate existing trends in the way parents in Wales discipline their children and to support them in feeling confident to choose positive and more effective methods of discipline.

Closing date: 2nd April 2018

<http://gov.wales/newsroom/people-and-communities/2018/180109-end-physical-punishment-of-children/?lang=en>