

Chairs' Updates 7 February 2024

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Early Years



Early years foundation stage statutory framework

For group and school-based providers

Setting the standards for learning,
development and care for children from
birth to five

Published: 8 December 2023

Effective: 4 January 2024

Early years qualification requirements and standards

For group and school based providers, and awarding
organisations and training providers offering
qualifications in early years

Published: 8 December 2023

Effective: 4 January 2024



Summary of changes for group and school-based providers - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Group and school-based settings must:

- ensure setting managers appointed on or after 4 January 2024 hold a level 2 maths qualification, or they achieve one within 2 years of starting in the position (Section 3, Staff:child ratios)
- ensure your setting's safeguarding policies and procedures include all electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities, not just mobile phones and cameras (Section 3, Safeguarding policies and procedures)
- ensure all level 2 and level 3 staff members hold a valid paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate, otherwise they cannot be included in ratio (Section 3, Paediatric first aid)
- Group and school-based settings may wish to consider applying the following flexibilities, if appropriate:

- level 3 practitioners in group and school-based settings will no longer be required to hold a level 2 maths qualification to count within staff:child ratios (Section 3, Staff:child ratios)
- a manager in group and school-based settings can now allow students and apprentices to count in staff:child ratios at the level below their level of study, if the manager is satisfied that they are competent and responsible (Section 3, Staff:child ratios)
- settings may provide opportunities for children to develop and use their home language in play and learning, previously this requirement stated this 'must' be done (Section 1, English as an Additional Language)

Group and school-based settings should also be aware that the following updates have been made to the EYFS:

- there is a new [statutory document](#) on early years qualification requirements and standards
- the language has been changed to clarify that physical evidence does not need to be collected for assessments (Section 2, Assessment)
- a clarification made that while qualifications must be verified, employees do not have to provide physical copies of their qualifications (Section 3, Suitable people)
- a clarification made on the wording on the validity of paediatric first aid (PFA) certificates (Section 3, Paediatric first aid)

Key Stage 2



Multiplication Tables Check – national outcomes 2023

Multiplication tables check
attainment: 2023 - GOV.UK
(www.gov.uk)

Official Statistics

Multiplication tables check attainment: 2023

Information on the 2023 multiplication tables check, including breakdowns by pupil characteristics, at national and local authority level.

From: [Department for Education](#)

Published 23 November 2023

Revised figures published in December

Headline facts and figures - 2022/23

Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (combined)

60%

up from 59% in 2022

Percentage of pupils meeting the higher standard in reading, writing and maths (combined)

8%

up from 7% in 2022

Disadvantage gap index

3.21

down from 3.23 in 2022

▶ [Help](#)

Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading

73%

down from 75% in 2022

Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in writing TA

71%

Up from 69% in 2022

Percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in maths

73%

up from 71% in 2022

2023 outcomes for primary schools

Documents



[Primary school performance data in England: 2023](https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/)

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>

Details

The 2023 tables show:

- results from the key stage 2 test in:
 - reading
 - grammar punctuation and spelling
 - mathematics
- key stage 2 teacher assessment results in writing
- key stage 1 to 2 pupil progress measures in:
 - reading
 - writing
 - mathematics

Key Stages 4 and 5





Press release

New British Sign Language GCSE heading for classrooms

The new GCSE will provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to effectively communicate using British Sign Language.



British Sign Language

GCSE subject content

December 2023

Headline facts and figures - 2022/23

Average A level result

B-

An increase from C+ in 2018/19
(33.77 points to 35.16 points)

▶ [What is this?](#)

Average applied general result

Merit+

This is the same as in 2018/19
(28.37 points to 29.56 points)

▶ [What is this?](#)

Average tech level result

Merit+

This is the same as in 2018/19
(28.43 points to 28.51 points)

[A level and other 16 to 18 results,
Academic year 2022/23 – Explore
education statistics – GOV.UK
\(\[explore-education-
statistics.service.gov.uk\]\(#\)\)](#)

Research and analysis

Student-level equalities analyses for GCSE, A level and VTQs - 2023

Equalities analysis of GCSE, A level and vocational and technical qualifications awarded in 2023.

From: [Ofqual](#)

Published 7 December 2023

“White Gypsy and Roma students had lower outcomes than white British students. The difference of 0.92 grade was 0.28 grade narrower than in 2019.”



Research and analysis

Equalities analysis: executive summary

Published 7 December 2023

[Student-level equalities analyses for GCSE, A level and VTQs - 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/research-analysis/student-level-equalities-analyses-for-gcse-a-level-and-vtqs-2023)



A world-class education system: The Advanced British Standard consultation

Page 1 of 10



Closes 20 Mar 2024

This service needs [cookies](#)
[enabled](#).

Introduction

1. What is your name?

Name

[A world-class education system: The Advanced
British Standard consultation - Page 1 of 10 -
Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

Safeguarding



Children now 'biggest perpetrators of sexual abuse against children'

Police data shows 52% of alleged offenders in England and Wales are minors - a situation exacerbated by 'accessibility of violent porn'



📷 Ian Critchley, the NPCC lead for child protection, said sexual offences were predominantly committed by boys against girls, 'exacerbated by the accessibility of violent pornography' on smartphones. Photograph: sankai/Getty Images



HM Government

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023

A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children

December 2023

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: Summary of Changes

Chapter 1: A Shared Responsibility

Chapter 2: Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (inc strengthening the role of education)

Chapter 3: Providing Help, Support and Protection (inc right to education)

Chapter 4: Organisational Responsibilities (changes to prison and probation sections)

Chapter 5: Learning from Serious Child Safeguarding Incidents (more on care leavers)

Chapter 6: Child Death Reviews

“125. All children aged 5 to 16 are legally entitled to a full-time education, suitable to any special educational need. Education is essential for children’s progress, wellbeing and wider development and being in school is a protective factor against wider harms, including exploitation. Where children are not receiving education, either because they persistently missing school, or are not registered at a school and not receiving a suitable education otherwise, this could be a possible indicator of neglect, abuse or exploitation or could in itself constitute neglect in severe and sustained cases.”

[Guidance for Schools and
Colleges: Gender
Questioning Children
\(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.education.gov.uk)



Guidance for Schools and Colleges: Gender Questioning Children

Government consultation

Launch date 19 December 2023

Respond by 12 March 2024



Guidance for Schools and Colleges: Gender Questioning Children

Overview

The consultation is seeking views on the content of the guidance and whether it will help to support schools and colleges, teachers and leaders to make considered and lawful decisions in relation to children who are questioning their gender and the wider school and college community.

Closes 12 Mar 2024

Opened 19 Dec 2023

Contact

gqcguidance.consultation@education.gov.uk

Give us your views

[Online Survey >](#)

[Guidance for Schools and Colleges: Gender Questioning Children - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

Attendance



Attendance in Autumn 2023

Overall absence rate

8.4%

during week commencing 11
December 2023

Authorised absence rate

5.6%

during week commencing 11
December 2023

Unauthorised absence rate

2.8%

during week commencing 11
December 2023

Overall absence rate

6.8%

academic year 2023/24 to date

Authorised absence rate

4.6%

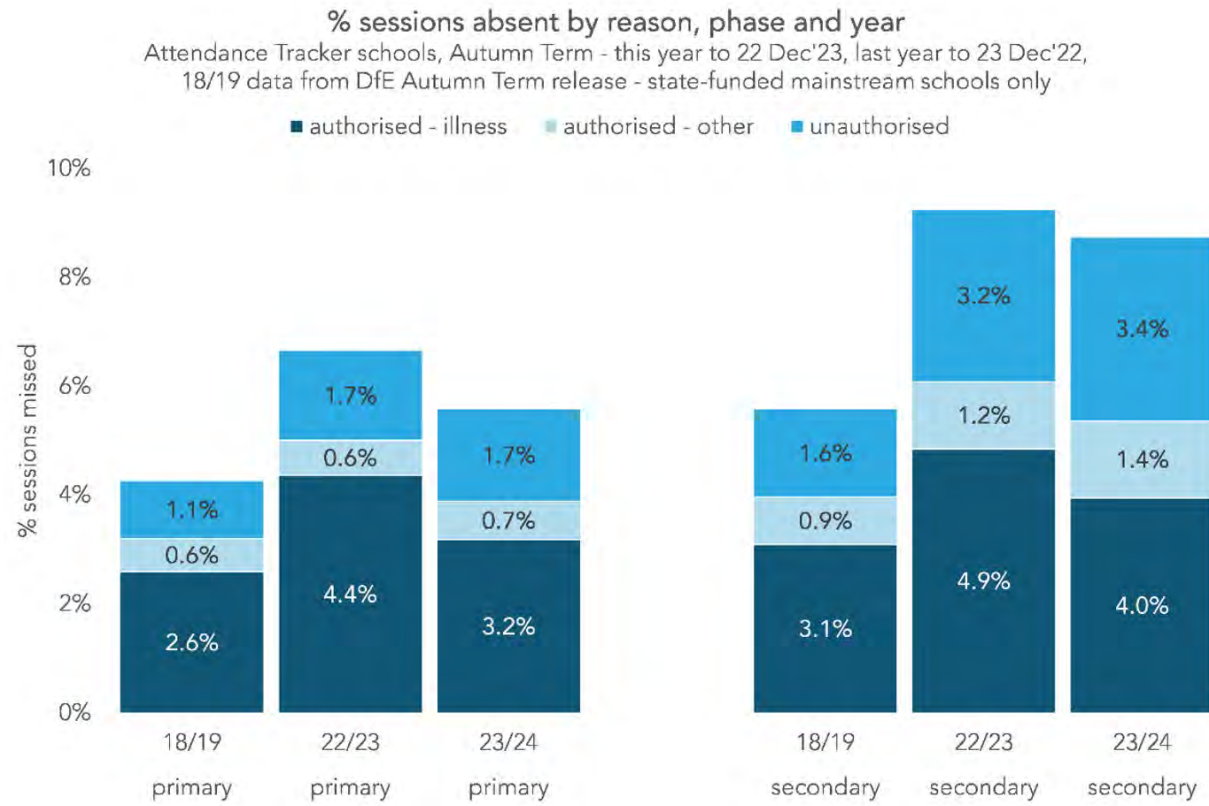
academic year 2023/24 to date

Unauthorised absence rate

2.2%

academic year 2023/24 to date

Attendance in Autumn 2023



Recently updated



**Arranging education for
children who cannot
attend school because of
health needs**

December 2023

Ofsted



Ofsted's response to the Coroner's report





Interview: How Sir Martyn Oliver plans to turnaround Ofsted

The new chief inspector talks to Schools Week rebuilding Ofsted's shattered reputation - here's the interview in full



John Dickens

🕒 2 Jan 2024, 0:01

[More from this author](#)



[Ofsted: How Sir Martyn Oliver plans to turnaround wat \(schoolsweek.co.uk\)](https://www.schoolsweek.co.uk/Ofsted-How-Sir-Martyn-Oliver-plans-to-turnaround-wat)



Guidance

Summary of changes

Updated 19 January 2024

Guidance

Ofsted code of conduct

Guidance on the conduct of inspectors and Ofsted's expectations of providers during inspection or wider regulatory activity.

From: [Ofsted](#)

Published 4 March 2020

Last updated 19 January 2024 — [See all updates](#)

Guidance

Pausing state-funded school inspections

Ofsted's policy for pausing state-funded school inspections.

From: [Ofsted](#)

Published 19 January 2024

News and Bedtime Reading



Schools Causing Concern

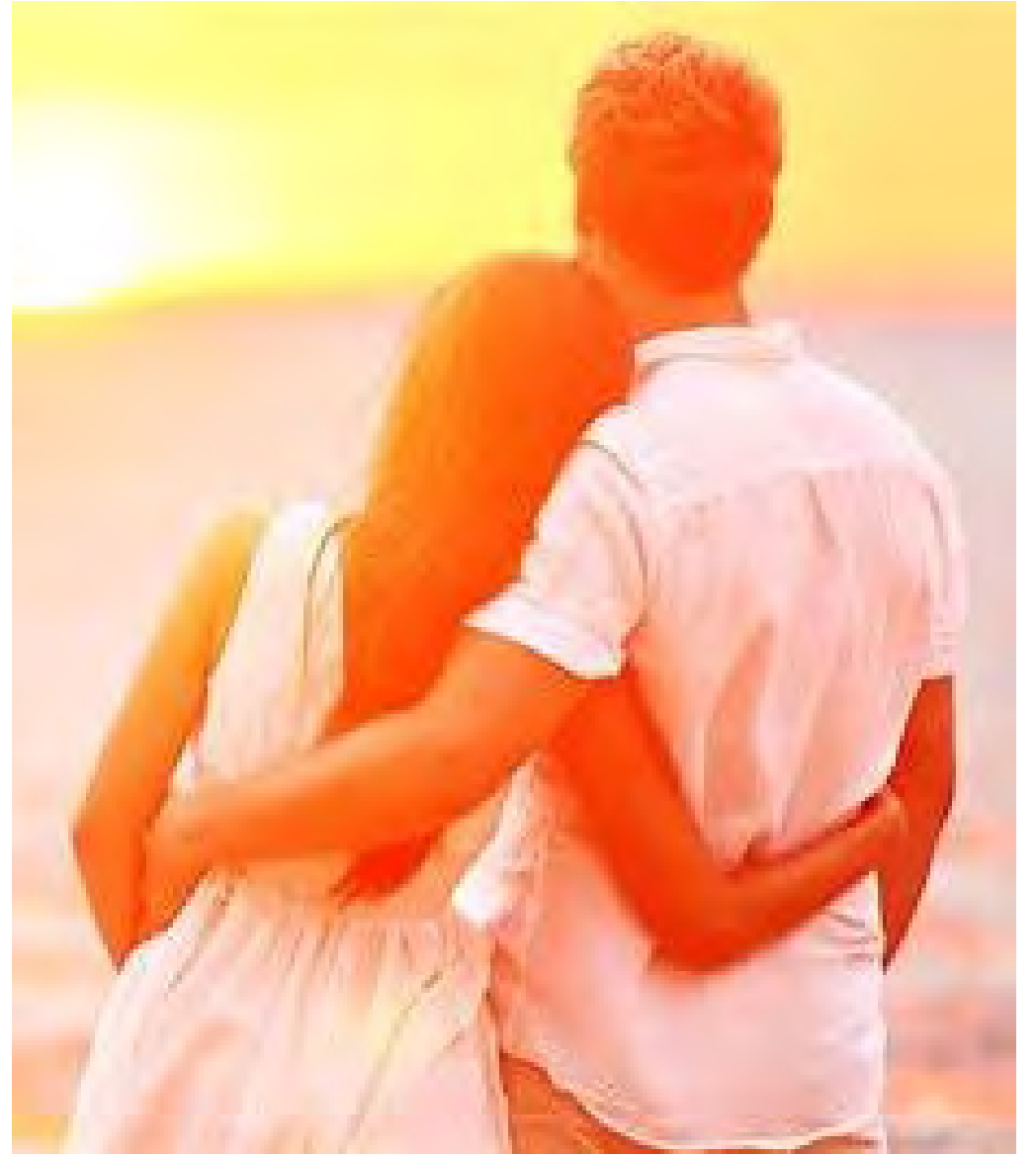


Schools causing concern

Guidance on intervention

January 2024

Grown Ups



New SENCO qualification

[Special educational needs co-ordinator's national professional qualification - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/special-educational-needs-co-ordinator-s-national-professional-qualification)

All mainstream schools must have a SENCO.

The SENCO must be a qualified teacher, or the headteacher, working at the school.

This new NPQ will be the mandatory qualification for SENCOs from September 2024, with teaching beginning in autumn 2024.

The 3-year window to complete the mandatory qualification on taking up a SENCO post will remain following the introduction of the NPQ for SENCOs.

Recommendations

The end of performance related pay?

More tasks added to the 24 in STPCD?

E.g.

7. Collating pupil reports e.g. reports of pupil examination results.

8. Producing and collating analyses of attendance figures.



Workload Reduction Taskforce

Initial recommendations

January 2024

Money



Training for Senior Mental Health Leader

- All schools and colleges can claim a £1,200 grant by 31 March 2024 for their mental health lead to attend DfE quality assured training anytime in the spring or summer academic terms, 2024. The training will help your mental health lead develop your setting's holistic approach to promoting and supporting the mental health and wellbeing of pupils, learners and staff.
- If you previously claimed a grant and your trained lead has left your setting, you can also now apply for a 2nd grant.

Guidance

National Tutoring Programme (NTP) grant funding: conditions of grant for 2023 to 2024 academic year

Updated 5 December 2023

[National Tutoring Programme \(NTP\) grant funding:
conditions of grant for 2023 to 2024 academic year -
GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-tutoring-programme-ntp-grant-funding-conditions-of-grant-2023-to-2024-academic-year)

And finally...

