



Department
for Education

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Guidance

Timeline for free schools, UTCs and studio schools: mandatory

Updated 15 September 2016

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NEW

1 September 2016: Ofqual's national reference test

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From 1 September 2016 academies and free schools with funding agreements signed after July 2010 must take part in Ofqual's [national reference test \(NRT\)](#), if selected. This will not apply to a small number of academies with funding agreements signed before July 2010, but we expect that these academies will want to participate in the test voluntarily, if selected, to ensure the test is fully representative.

Ofqual has appointed the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) as its test supplier and NFER will contact selected schools and academies in September.

NEW

1 September 2016: revised statutory guidance – ‘Children missing education’

We have published revised statutory guidance: [‘Children missing education’](#). The revised guidance will help schools and local authorities to comply with the recent changes to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. We held a [consultation](#) on the changes in early 2016.

Statutory guidance sets out what schools and local authorities must do to comply with the law. You should follow the guidance unless you have a very good reason not to.

UPDATED

5 September 2016: updated safeguarding guidance

The revised [‘Keeping children safe in education \(KCSIE\)’](#) guidance comes into force on 5 September 2016.

UPDATED

2 November 2016: school census deadline

You must send your school census data to us no later than 2 November 2016. We use data from the census to determine how much funding you will receive. Guidance on [submitting your school census return](#) is available.

UPDATED

Autumn 2016: governance – new information required

The [‘Academies financial handbook’](#) sets out the requirement for academies and multi-academy trusts to supply to us new information about their governors. The revised handbook applies from 1 September 2016. The [national database of governors press release](#) sets out the main changes.

UPDATED

2 December 2016: school workforce census deadline

The school workforce census is a snapshot of the staffing levels at your school as at 3 November 2016. You must send your census data to us no later than 2 December 2016. Guidance on [submitting your school workforce census return](#) is available.

Spring term 2017

NEW

15 February 2017: school census deadline

You must send us your school census data no later than 15 February 2017. We use data from the census to determine how

much funding you will receive. Guidance on [submitting your school census return](#) is available.

NEW

April 2017: gender pay differences

All large employers (with 250 or more employees) will have to report on gender pay differences from April 2017. The regulations and supporting guidance, due to be published early in 2017, will set out what information employers will need to publish.

We launched a [public consultation](#) seeking views on how the proposals will apply to public sector organisations on 18 August.

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