



Department  
for Education

## Consultation

Launch Date 16 November 2012

Respond by 16 December 2012

Ref: Department for Education

### **Consultation on (1) the draft Order making Foreign Languages statutory for Key Stage 2; and (2) a proposal to require schools teach one or more of seven languages at Key Stage 2**

On 6 July 2012 the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, launched a public consultation on the Government's proposal to make languages a compulsory subject at Key Stage 2 in maintained schools from September 2014. The consultation closed on 28 September 2012. The vast majority of respondents agreed with the Government's intention to introduce foreign languages at Key Stage 2. That consultation provided the Government with an opportunity to reflect on and reconsider its initial views in relation to specifying the choice of language at Key Stage 2.

Having carefully considered the responses to the consultation, as well as a range of relevant factors, the Government has confirmed its intention to make the study of a foreign language compulsory at Key Stage 2 and now seeks views on:

- The draft of the Order necessary to make foreign languages a statutory subject at Key Stage 2 from September 2014
- A new proposal to require primary schools to teach one or more of French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish or a classical language (Latin or Ancient Greek) to pupils at Key Stage 2. Schools would, of course, be free to teach other languages in addition if they wish to do so.

# Consultation on (1) the draft Order making Foreign Languages statutory for Key Stage 2; and (2) a proposal to require schools teach one or more of seven languages at Key Stage 2

## A Consultation

**To** Primary Schools, Secondary Schools, Special Schools, Academy/Free Schools, Subject Association, Parents, Young People, Higher Education, Employers/Business Sector, Local Authorities, Organisations Representing School Children, Other

**Issued** 16 November 2012

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact The Department on:

### Enquiries

**To** Telephone: 0370 000 2288

e-mail: [Foreign.LANGUAGES@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Foreign.LANGUAGES@education.gsi.gov.uk)

## Contact Details

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Department by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the Department's '[Contact Us](#)' page.

## 1 Background and Context

- 1.1 On 6 July 2012 the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, launched a public consultation on the Government's proposal to make languages a compulsory subject at Key Stage 2 in maintained schools from September 2014. That consultation closed on 28 September 2012 and a summary of the responses was published on the DfE website. The vast majority of respondents agreed with the Government's intention to introduce foreign languages at Key Stage 2.

## 2 The Proposals

- 2.1 *(1) Consultation on the draft statutory instrument making foreign languages a foundation subject in the National Curriculum for England for key stage 2*

Having carefully considered the responses to the consultation, and the strong support for the proposal, the Government has decided to proceed with making languages a statutory subject at Key Stage 2 from September 2014 by Order amending section 84 of the Education Act 2002.

This part of this consultation is conducted under section 96 of the Education Act 2002. Under the legislation which governs the National Curriculum, the Secretary of State is required to consult on a draft of the Order necessary to effect these changes. The draft Order which would be used to amend legislation is attached at **Annex 1**.

*Question*

**1 Do you have any comments on the draft Order attached at Annex 1?**

2.2 *(2) Proposal to require the teaching of one or more of seven languages at Key Stage 2*

The consultation that closed on 28 September 2012 stated that the Government was not minded to specify the language to be taught, but rather give full flexibility to schools in their choice of languages. That consultation provided the Government with an opportunity to reflect on and reconsider its initial views in relation to specifying the choice of language at Key Stage 2.

Having carefully considered the responses to the consultation, as well as a range of relevant factors, the Government wishes to seek views on a new proposal to require primary schools to teach one or more of the following languages at Key Stage 2: French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish or a classical language (Latin or ancient Greek). Schools would, of course, be free to teach other languages in addition to one of these.

By requiring primary schools to teach one or more of these languages, this proposal would prevent any potential proliferation of very low take-up languages, and would focus schools' attention on a sample of important languages that, each in their own right, would give a good grounding for further languages study. The proposed choice broadly reflects the languages that primary schools already teach at Key Stage 2, thereby capitalising on these strengths; but does not restrict schools to European and modern languages. Instead, it opens up the possibility of Mandarin for instance, which is widely considered to be important for the future of our country; and classical languages, which can give a good grounding in the grammar and other features of a number of modern languages.

The proposal would be achieved by an order under section 84(4) which will set out the meaning of a "foreign language" for that purpose.

*Question*

**2 a) Do you agree with the Government's proposal to require primary schools to teach one or more of French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish or a classical language (Latin or Ancient Greek) at Key Stage 2?**

**Yes**

**No**

**Not sure**

## 2 b) Please explain the reasons for your answer

### 3 How To Respond

- 3.1 You can respond to the consultation by completing the response form and emailing it to [Foreign.LANGUAGES@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Foreign.LANGUAGES@education.gsi.gov.uk) or sending it by post to:

Public Communications Unit, Area 1C  
Castle View House  
East Lane  
Runcorn  
Cheshire, WA7 2GJ.

### 4 Additional Copies

- 4.1 Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations>

### 5 Plans for making results public

- 5.1 The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website

### 6 Annex 1

- 6.1 Draft Order laid before Parliament under section 210(3) of the Education Act 2002, for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

## DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2013 No.

EDUCATION, ENGLAND

The Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements for Second Key Stage) (England) Order 2013

Made - - - -

\*\*\*

Coming into force - -

1st September 2014

This Order is made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 84(6) of the Education Act 2002([\[1\]](#)).

In accordance with section 96(2) and (3) of that Act, the Secretary of State has

given notice of the proposal to make this Order to associations of local authorities, bodies representing the interests of school governing bodies, organisations representing school teachers and to other persons with whom consultation appeared to the Secretary of State to be desirable.

In accordance with section 96(4) of that Act, the Secretary of State has given those bodies and persons a reasonable opportunity of submitting evidence and representations as to the issues arising from the proposal.

In accordance with section 96(5) and (6) of that Act, having considered the evidence and representations submitted the Secretary of State has published a draft of the proposed order and a summary of the views expressed during the consultation, and has allowed a period of not less than one month for the submission of further evidence and representations as to the issues arising.

In accordance with section 210(3) of that Act a draft of this instrument was laid before Parliament and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

The Secretary of State for Education now makes the following Order.

#### Citation and commencement

•1. This Order may be cited as the Education (Amendment of the Curriculum Requirements for Second Key Stage) (England) Order 2013 and comes into force on 1st September 2014.

#### Amendment of section 84 of the Education Act 2002

•2. In section 84 of the Education Act 2002 (curriculum requirements for first, second and third key stages)-

- (a) before subsection (3)(h) insert-

(ga) in relation to the second key stage, a foreign language, and;

- (b) for subsection (4) substitute-

(4) In this section "foreign language" and "modern foreign language" means a foreign language or modern foreign language, as the case may be, specified in an order made by the Secretary of State or, if the order so provides, any foreign language or modern foreign language.; and

- (c) in subsection (5) for "modern foreign language" substitute "a foreign language or a modern foreign language, as the case may be".

Secretary of State

Parliamentary Under

Date

Department

for Education

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order amends section 84 of the Education Act 2002 (c. 32) to add a foreign language as a foundation subject in the National Curriculum for England for the second key stage. The Order also amends subsections (4) and (5) so as to enable foreign languages to be specified by order for the purposes of subsection (4).

An impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no impact on the private sector or civil society organisations is foreseen. The impact on the public sector is minimal.

---

([1]) 2002 c. 32. Section 96 is substituted by paragraph 15 of Schedule 8 to the Education Act 2011 (c. 21).