



Guidance

Timeline for academies: mandatory

Updated 19 January 2015

Contents

[Spring term 2015](#)

[Summer term 2015](#)

[Autumn term 2015](#)

Spring term 2015

UPDATED

January 2015: pupils

[Simplified school food standards](#) will be mandatory for:

[↑ Contents](#)

- all maintained schools
- academies set up before 2010
- new academies and free schools signing their funding agreement from June 2014

UPDATED

January 2015: pupils

The [0 to 25 SEND code of practice](#) came into force in September 2014. Schools must:

- publish their [special educational needs \(SEN\) information report](#) from September 2014
- review and transfer pupils on School Action (SA) or School Action Plus to SEN support by September 2015
- record SA or SA Plus pupils who have been reviewed and require additional support under the 'SEN support' category in the January 2015 school census – schools should still record those pupils not yet reviewed under the SA/SA Plus categories
- record newly identified SEN pupils not requiring [education, health and care \(EHC\) assessment or plans](#) as receiving SEN support in the census
- include pupils with EHC plans in the census - local authorities must consider all new requests for statutory assessment under the EHC assessment

Resources to help schools to implement the changes are available through the [SEND Gateway](#), including [a short guide to the SEND code of practice for schools](#).

NEW

January 2015: pupils

Schools must complete and send their school census return to DfE between 15 January and 11 February 2015.



The school census is a statutory collection. We use data from the school census to determine how much funding you will receive. [Guidance on submitting your school census return](#) is available.

NEW

January 2015: pupils

We have updated [statutory exclusion guidance](#) to support headteachers in the use of exclusion and to help governing bodies and independent review panels review exclusion decisions.

We have also amended regulations to clarify that a [governing body's duty to arrange education from the sixth day of a fixed-period exclusion](#) is triggered by consecutive fixed-period exclusions totalling more than 5 days.

NEW

January 2015: governance

We have revised the [school admissions code](#), introducing both mandatory and optional changes for admission authorities.

UPDATED

January 2015: curriculum and qualifications

[Reformed accountability measures](#) will apply to the results of pupils starting key stage 4 in September 2014 and finishing year 11 in summer term 2016. A new progress measure based on results in 8 qualifications will be the main accountability measure for secondary schools (replacing 5 A* to C grades at GCSE). Schools wanting to adopt these measures a year early must obtain the agreement of their governing body and [apply by 30 June 2015](#).

NEW

April 2015: finance

Schools in receipt of the [primary PE and sport premium](#) must publish information online about their use of the funding. Schools must publish the amount of grant received, how they spent it (or will spend it) and the impact on pupils' PE (physical education) and sport participation and attainment. Schools should also consider how the funding is helping to ensure pupils develop healthy lifestyles.

NEW

April 2015: pupils

Statutory requirements in the [Children and Families Act 2014](#) relating to [young offenders with SEN come into force](#). 'Home' English local authorities (LAs) will have a duty to keep an education, health and care (EHC) plan for every child or young person (under 19) moving into custody, and review it on release. Detained young people and their parents will have a right to request a new EHC needs assessment. Where appropriate, LAs should start the assessment process while the young person is in custody.

If the child or young person had an EHC plan before being detained, or was assessed for one during the detention, LAs must arrange appropriate special educational provision while they are detained.

Education settings, youth offending teams and those in charge of secure establishments must co-operate with the home LA to ensure it fulfils these duties and to support assessment processes. They must follow and consider the SEND code of practice when making decisions.

We will set out these requirements in supporting regulations and [chapter 10 of the revised SEND code of practice, drafts of which we published for consultation in October 2014](#).

NEW

Spring 2015: curriculum and qualifications

We will publish details of school and college performance against the 16-to-19 interim minimum standards in the academic year 2013 to 2014 at the end of February or beginning of March 2015.

Summer term 2015

NEW

June 2015: curriculum and qualifications

The window for opting to [adopt the new key stage 4 performance measures a year early from 2015](#) closes on 30 June 2015.

Autumn term 2015

NEW

September 2015: curriculum and qualifications

Sixth forms should note that students taking one-year GCSE English or maths courses in September 2015 must be enrolled on one of the existing GCSE courses. Those starting 2-year courses in September 2015 or any course in September 2016 must enrol on the new GCSE course. From September 2015 full-time students who hold a grade D GCSE in English and/or maths must be enrolled for GCSE English and/or maths as a condition of that student's place being funded. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has [published guidance on maths and English conditions of funding post 16](#).

NEW

Autumn 2015: curriculum and qualifications

Awarding organisations will publish new A level specifications based on published subject content in:

- ancient languages
- dance
- drama and theatre
- further mathematics
- geography
- modern languages
- music
- mathematics
- physical education (PE)
- religious studies

These will be first taught from September 2016, with the first A level examinations in summer 2018 (AS level in 2017). Schools choose specifications, contact awarding organisations and plan for these new qualifications.

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