

Delays to the new National Curriculum and an indication of the nature of the curriculum changes has dominated education news in England. It has also been confirmed that the Early Years Curriculum will be slimmed down in line with the recommendations of the Tickell Review.

In Scotland the priorities for 2012 continue to be Early Years and the implementation of the new curriculum.

Welsh schools will benefit from a £1.4bn investment in capital funding over the next seven years. Also in Wales, a review of Child Development Assessment Profiles has been announced.

## A longer wait for the new National Curriculum

- Michael Gove has suggested a longer timescale to allow for 'a radically different and more rigorous approach'.
- The implementation of English, Mathematics, Science and PE have been delayed until 2014 (from 2013).
- Key changes are likely to include:
  - Reviewing the key stage structure (specifically, dividing KS2 into two shorter stages)
  - Programmes of study will link to 2-year phases (with the possible exception of primary maths, which may be yearly)
  - Level descriptors to be abolished – new attainment targets will relate closely to key learning concepts
  - Students are to progress only when they have sufficient understanding of the key elements
  - Oral language is to be an important feature

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00201092/written-ministerial-statement-on-the-national-curriculum-review>

- The report from the Expert Panel can be downloaded from:

<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00135-2011>

Next Steps	When
Detailed revised timetable and refreshed remit to be published.	Early 2012
English, Maths, Science and PE to be statutory	September 2014
Decisions on what other core subjects will be included in the curriculum	Spring 2012
Consultation	2013
Statutory Implementation	2014

## Phonics match-funding take-up :

- By December 2500 schools had ordered products or training through the scheme
- This makes for an average of only 15% of schools per authority, to date
- The catalogue of approved products is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/pedagogy/teachingstyles/phonics/a00191791/match-funding-for-systematic-synthetic-phonics-products-and-training>

- Information about phonics resources and free support from OUP is available at:

<http://www.oup.com/oxed/primary/literacy/phonics/>

## First phonics results :

- In test results from 300 schools, only 32% of six-year-olds reached the expected level.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200672/a-third-of-children-reach-expected-level-in-pilot-of-phonics-check>

Next Steps	When
First phonics screening check takes place	w/c 18 June 2012
Phonics match-funding scheme runs	Until March 2013

## Reading Miles Global Challenge :

- The National Literacy Trust and OUP have launched a competition that encourages pupils and parents to read together at home.

[http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools\\_network/competitions/reading\\_miles\\_global\\_challenge](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/schools_network/competitions/reading_miles_global_challenge)

## Does it add up? :

- The NC review is examining the use of calculators in primary schools in light of international evidence that their use should be limited in favour of developing mental maths.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200479/use-of-calculators-in-primary-schools-to-be-reviewed>

## KS2 test results out :

- Results were up from 2010 across all subjects, with the biggest improvement being in writing (75% reached level 4, up from 71%).
- The government's reporting focused on the 1,310 primary schools who are 'below the floor'.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200915/primary-schools-test-results-released>

## Pupil premium uplift

- The total funding for the Pupil Premium will rise to £1.25bn in 2012-13.
- It will rise again each year until 2014-15, when it will be worth £2.5bn.
- This year the premium will be worth an extra £58 for each child because fewer-than-expected children have registered for Free School Meals, making the total amount per child £488

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00199131/schools-to-get-even-more-pupil-premium-cash-this-year>

## Full marks for early years review

- The government is implementing the recommendations of the Tickell Review:
  - A progress check at age two
  - A slimmed down EYFS curriculum with fewer learning goals
  - A focus on three prime areas of learning (communication and language, physical development and PSE development).

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00201173/reforming-early-years>

## Head teachers get revised qualification

- The National College will be revising the NPQH qualification:
  - Bar for entry and assessment to be raised
  - Content to be more demanding
  - Non-mandatory.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200533/overhaul-of-head-teachers-qualification-to-help-train-the-next-generation-of-great-school-leaders>

## New 'Master Teacher' scheme proposed

- An independent review is recommending a new 'Master Teacher Standard' to recognise outstanding teachers.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200711/great-teachers-could-become-master-teachers>

## Teacher performance arrangements revamped

- The government has published new arrangements for appraisals, and for dealing with underperforming teachers.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00202005/schools-get-more-freedom-to-manage-teacher-performance>

## Scholarships to teach

- Out of 2,000 applications, 280 scholarships have been awarded for teachers in priority subjects (plus 391 for SEN).

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00200774/hundreds-of-teachers-awarded-national-scholarships>

## Scotland

- The key education priorities for 2012 are:
  - early years
  - the ongoing implementation of the new curriculum
  - the reform of post-16 education.
- Free early learning and childcare provision for looked after two year olds will be made available through funding of £1.5m a year over the next three years (drawn from the £270m Early Years Change Fund).
- Teacher recruitment to be increased in 2012-13, so that new teachers will be ready to join the teaching workforce as probationer teachers in 2013.
- The Scottish Book Trust's 'Bookbug' programme is to receive £450,000 for deprived areas and to pilot a new book gifting pack to expectant mothers.
- Summary Statistics for 2011 show that:
  - average class-size in primary rose from 22.4 to 22.5.
  - absence across all sectors was 6.8% in 2010/11, a slight increase from last year
  - Over the last five years, 358 schools have been rebuilt or refurbished.
  - The total FTE number of teachers based in pre-school, primary, secondary and special schools, or visiting specialists, was 51,441.

## Wales

- The government has announced nearly £1.4bn over seven years as part of the 21st Century Schools Capital Funding Programme.
  - Will be used for building new schools, improving facilities, additional learning needs, Welsh-medium education and faith based school provision.
- An independent review of Child Development Assessment Profiles has been announced, with a revised Profile to be introduced for September 2013.
- New teacher training incentives will focus on priority subjects and the recruitment of high calibre candidates.
- A new Masters programme for NQTs has been announced.
- Banding information for all secondary schools has been published - using the performance of schools to group them into one of five bands.

Next Steps	When
National Literacy and Numeracy Framework introduced in schools	September 2012
Framework rolled out across whole of Wales	2013

## And in other news...

- Under new powers, schools will be able to offer price promotions on meals to particular pupils, encouraging more children to try a healthy school lunch.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00201373/new-powers-for-schools-to-beat-the-takeaways>

- Michael Gove has scrapped the ICT curriculum in favour of Computer Science.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00201864/harmful-ict-curriculum-set-to-be-dropped-this-september-to-make-way-for-rigorous-computer-science>



## You still have a chance to contribute to...

Live consultations	Responses due by
Supporting Families in the Foundation Years: Proposed Changes to the Entitlement to Free Early Education and Childcare Sufficiency <a href="http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&amp;consultationId=1782&amp;external=no&amp;menu=1">http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&amp;consultationId=1782&amp;external=no&amp;menu=1</a>	3 February 2012
A consultation on revised statutory guidance and regulations for exclusions from schools and pupil referral units in England <a href="http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&amp;consultationId=1795&amp;external=no&amp;menu=1">http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&amp;consultationId=1795&amp;external=no&amp;menu=1</a>	17 February 2012
Consultation On Proposed Changes To The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2009 To Require Governing Bodies To Share Information With Prospective Employers About Whether Head Teachers And Teachers Have Been In Capability Procedures <a href="http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&amp;consultationId=1801&amp;external=no&amp;menu=1">http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&amp;consultationId=1801&amp;external=no&amp;menu=1</a>	24 February 2012

## In Numbers...

- Around 35,000 heads have graduated with the NPQH and just over half of current heads hold it.
- 3.8m children in the UK don't have a book of their own.
- According to LA forecasts, the number of primary pupils is set to increase by 454,800 nationally between 2010/11 and 2015/16.
- There were 382,400 children in need in 2011 and 615,000 referrals to social care services in the year ending March 2011.
- Around 20% of state-funded primary schools were full or over-full in 2011 while 80% had one or more unfilled places.
- The average class-size in Scottish primary schools is 22.5.