

Where Next?

Bury Governors Association

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The Education White Paper

- Great Teachers, everywhere they're needed
- Great Leaders running our schools, and at the heart of our system
- A school led system with every school an academy, empowered pupils, parents and communities, and a clearly defined role for local government
- Preventing underperformance and helping schools go from good to great; school led improvement, with scaffolding and support where its needed
- High expectations and a world leading curriculum for all
- Fair, stretching accountability, ambitious for every child
- The right resources in the right hands: investing every penny where it can do the most good

The Education White Paper

In simple terms

- Academies/Free Schools
- Local Authorities
- Self-Improving System
- National Funding
- Inspection
- Teaching & Curriculum
- Governance

The U Turn or the Z Turn

No forced Academies

- For good/outstanding schools
- In good LA's
- Where the LA is viable

But where the above conditions are not met, schools **will** be required to convert. Not at all clear what criteria will be used to judge.

Individual schools can also be picked off via Warning Notices – we have 2 already - or inadequate inspections

All other aspects of the White Paper remain - the Government remains committed to all schools becoming an Academy

The Education White Paper

- Plan to open at least 500 new free schools by 2020
- Introduce measures to enable the Secretary of State to require the use of local authority land for new free schools
- Expect most schools will form or join multi-academy trusts (MATs)
- Establish a MAT Growth Fund and publish 'design principles'
- Where academies or MATs are underperforming, Regional Schools Commissioners (RSCs) to take action and can also issue warning notices to LA schools in certain circumstances

Implications for LAs

- Traditional roles of central and local government will change.
- Even if schools no longer forced to become academies we can expect a significant number will either through individual choice, through diocesan decision (e.g. RC schools) or by compulsion
- As schools become academies they take funding and other resources with them, impacting on our LA position
- Responsibility for school improvement to be transferred from LAs to schools
- LA can still provide traded services as long as we can do it viably and retain sufficient staff with expertise
- There may be other approaches which could be adopted involving schools more directly working with each other through consortia

The New Role for LAs

The local authority's education duties will focus on three areas:

- Ensuring every child has a school place
- Ensuring the needs of vulnerable pupils are met
- Acting as champions for all parents and families

However at this stage I am far from convinced that we will have the necessary powers and resources to undertake these roles

Ensuring every child has a school place

- LA retains responsibility to ensure sufficient school, special school and alternative provision places to meet demand.
- LAs to work with schools and parents in developing local school transport policies.
- DfE will seek views on requiring LAs to coordinate in-year admissions
- A new Parent Portal to be launched in 2017 (will work alongside a new performance tables website)

Ensuring the needs of vulnerable pupils are met

- LAs will retain a role in ensuring sufficiency of Alternative Provision in their area.
- Identifying, assessing and making provision for children with SEND and CYPIC
- Publish a local offer of services for children and young people with SEND
- Promoting school attendance and tackling persistent absence
- Leading on safeguarding responsibilities for all children, including those in un-regulated settings, educated at home and children missing education, as well as children at risk of radicalisation;
- Working with schools to ensure that they understand and discharge their safeguarding duties;
- Supporting vulnerable children, and deciding how to spend the Pupil Premium Plus

Acting as champions for all parents and families

- Promoting the needs of parents, children and the local community
- Championing high standards locally for all pupils
- The DFE will review the responsibilities of LAs in relation to children, including the implications for the roles of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children, in light of the policy changes set out in the white paper
- Very Vague

Support for Children with additional needs

- DfE to explore with LAs how to measure the educational progress of children in care
- Consider changing legislation to extend the role of Virtual School Heads and school designated teacher for looked-after children to continue to support children who have left care under an adoption order.
- Promote boarding as an option for vulnerable children to LAs
- Reform the alternative provision system - mainstream schools remain accountable for the education of pupils in AP and are responsible for commissioning high quality provision
- Local authorities will retain a role in ensuring sufficiency of Alternative Provision in their area.

Conclusions

- The only certainty is change
- We need to work out what direction we want to go in and how we might get there
- What do you think?
- What aspects (if any) of the LA's work do you most value and wish to see retained?
- What scope is there for schools to work together even more closely and how might we make that happen?
- What is our 2025 vision and how can we get there?