



Strategy overview 2015–2020

DfE
vision

Provide world-class education and care that allows every child and young person to reach his or her potential, regardless of background

System goals

Safety and wellbeing

All children and young people are protected from harm and vulnerable children are supported to succeed with opportunities as good as those for any other child

Educational excellence everywhere

Every child and young person can access high-quality provision, achieving to the best of his or her ability regardless of location, prior attainment and background

Prepared for adult life

All 19-year-olds complete school, college or an apprenticeship with the skills and character to contribute to the UK's society and economy, and are able to access high-quality work or study options

DfE delivery priorities

1 Recruit, develop, support and retain teachers

- Attract enough talented individuals to teach where they are needed
- Strengthen university and school-led training and accreditation, including increasing the rigour of ITT content and the proportion of ITT that is school-led
- Ensure teachers can access sufficient, high-quality CPD and teaching materials
- Foster a world-leading teaching profession, including by reducing bureaucracy, establishing a College of Teaching and increasing teachers' access to and use of high-quality evidence

2 Strengthen school and system leadership

- Support the system to strengthen training and development of executive, senior and middle leaders
- Incentivise great leaders to work in challenging areas and pilot the National Teaching Service
- Provide a clear framework for system leadership (including Teaching School Alliances and Leaders of Education) to enable effective school-to-school support across the country – preventing underperformance, promoting collaboration and spreading best practice
- Ensure each part of the country has enough high-quality sponsors and governors

3 Drive sustainable school improvement

- Embed a school system appropriate for the long term that prevents underperformance, helps all schools to improve and extends the reach of high-performing schools and leaders – while increasing the pace of academisation and clearly articulating the roles of RSCs, LAs, MATs and schools
- Intervene promptly in underperforming schools to ensure our toughest schools are run by our best leaders, especially in areas of long-term or chronic underperformance

4 Embed clear and intelligent accountability

- Reform inspection to improve its reliability and utility for parents, schools and staff, and the wider education system – while reducing burdens and perverse incentives
- Implement new accountability measures across schools and post-16 that are driven by the progress and attainment of *all* pupils
- Provide parents and governors with clear, accessible information to support school choice and help them to hold schools to account

5 Embed rigorous standards, curriculum and assessment

- Embed reforms to GCSEs and A-levels so that they are recognised as gold standard qualifications, and ensure that schools are able to deliver the National Curriculum where they choose to do so
- Improve literacy and numeracy for all, including through strengthening primary assessment measures and delivering reformed Key Stage 2 tests
- Ensure pupils are offered more stretching programmes of study: increasing the take up of STEM study, the EBacc and facilitating A-levels
- Ensure schools help all pupils progress, particularly stretching the most able pupils and supporting low attainers

6 Ensure access to quality places where they are needed

- Deliver 500 new free schools, with a UTC within reach of every city
- Ensure sufficient supply and maintenance of high-quality school, specialist and post-16 places where they are needed

7 Deliver fair and sustainable funding

- Reform school, high needs, early years and disadvantage funding by introducing fair National Funding Formulae and improve the effectiveness of pupil premium spending
- With CLG and BIS, ensure sustainability of funding in children's services and 16-19 provision
- Support all our institutions to improve financial management and efficiency

8 Reform 16-19 skills

- With BIS, deliver 3 million high-quality apprenticeship starts
- Create clear, high-quality technical and professional routes to employment that are accessible for all and aligned with Britain's economic needs
- Reform the provider base to ensure every area is effectively served by a sustainable, resilient and responsive system of schools, Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges

9 Develop early years strategy

- Extend free childcare to 30 hours for working parents of 3 and 4-year-olds
- Ensure the market works efficiently and effectively, so it provides *sufficient* places for all parents to access the childcare offers to which they are entitled
- Design reforms that increase the *quality* of the early years education and childcare offered across the country, focusing on developing the workforce

10 Strengthen children's social care

- Attract talented individuals, improve training and introduce clear professional standards to create a stronger social work profession
- Build a culture of excellence in children's services by encouraging innovative, evidence-led delivery practices and strengthening governance and accountability
- Support reforms to local delivery arrangements and intervene to tackle failure through new independent social care trusts, combined authority arrangements and City Deals
- Reform adoption services, including rolling out new regional agencies, to find loving homes for vulnerable children promptly, and improve support for children in and leaving care

11 Support and protect vulnerable children

- Run a proactive, inquisitive counter-extremism function and work with the Home Office and other agencies to protect children from radicalisation
- Support schools to help children and young people build good mental health and access support where they need it
- Embed current reforms and review our strategy to improve special education needs and disabilities provision – to empower parents and children and improve educational outcomes
- Implement reforms to the alternative provision system to improve quality and outcomes for pupils

12 Build character and resilience

- Support schools to develop pupils into well-rounded, confident, happy and resilient individuals to boost their academic attainment, employability and ability to engage in society as active citizens
- Facilitate access to high-quality, inspirational careers support and work experience

Principles

Children and young people first

Ensure children and young people, along with their families and carers, are satisfied with the quality of the education system and children's services

High expectations for every child

We are unapologetically ambitious for every child and young person, and will ensure there are no forgotten groups or areas

Outcomes, not methods

Set stretching, well-measured outcomes and empower professionals to determine how to achieve them, through innovative local solutions

Supported autonomy

Align funding, control, responsibility and accountability in one place, as close to the front-line as possible; ensure institutions can collaborate and access the support they need, to set them up for success

Responsive to need and performance

Ensure institutions respond to changing user needs and performance – autonomy can be earned and lost, with our most successful leaders earning their autonomy, extending their influence and vice versa