

29 September 2016

Schools that work for everyone Green Paper

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

On 12 September the Secretary of State for Education launched an education Green Paper [Schools that work for everyone](#). This report summarises its key proposals and invites comments from the Board to inform an LGA response to the Green Paper, which has a deadline of 12 December.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to give its views on the education Green Paper in order to inform an LGA response.

Action

Officers to take action as directed by members.

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Schools that work for everyone Green Paper

1. Background

2. On 12 September the Education Secretary Justine Greening MP launched a Green Paper [Schools that work for everyone](#). The proposals include;
 - 2.1. Expecting independent schools to support existing state schools, open new ones or offer funded places to children whose families can't afford to pay fees
 - 2.2. Asking universities to commit to sponsoring or setting up new schools in exchange for the ability to charge higher fees
 - 2.3. Allowing selective schools to expand, or new ones to open, while making sure they support non-selective schools
 - 2.4. Allowing new faith free schools to select up to 100% of pupils based on their faith, and introducing new requirements to make sure that faith schools include pupils from different backgrounds
3. The aims of the proposals are to:
 - 3.1. Radically expand the number of good school places available to all families, not just those who can afford to move into the catchment area, go private institutions, pay for tuition to pass selective tests or belong to certain faiths.
 - 3.2. Give all schools with a strong track record, experience and valuable expertise the right incentives to expand their offer to even more pupils, driving up standards and giving parents greater control
 - 3.3. Deliver a diverse school system that gives all children, whatever their background, the opportunity to help them achieve their potential. The proposals likely to be of most direct interest to councils are those relating to selective schools and more detail on these proposals is included below. However, the Board may also wish to comment on the other proposals.

Proposals allowing selective schools to expand, or new ones to open

4. Support for existing grammar schools to expand;
 - 4.1. This proposal is designed to allow good and outstanding selective schools to expand, with dedicated funding of up to £50m a year. The Government will fund the expansion of places upfront on the basis of estimates, not retrospectively, thus removing a financial disincentive to expansion. Supporting this expansion will provide additional good quality selective places in the system, although it would not increase the number of selective schools overall.
5. Permitting the establishment of new selective schools;
 - 5.1. This proposal is designed to enable new wholly-selective or partially-selective schools to be established by removing the existing restrictions on selection, subject to meeting certain conditions. These would be established as free schools set up in response to local demand and they would have the flexibility to select up to 100% of their intake on the basis of ability.

6. Permitting existing non-selective schools to become selective;
 - 6.1. This proposal allows existing non-selective schools to become selective by removing existing restrictions on selection, subject to meeting certain conditions. These schools would become selective in response to local demand and would have flexibility to select 100% of their intake on the basis of ability. The Government will consider measures to preserve school diversity in areas where schools choose to convert in this way.
7. Conditions;
 - 7.1. In order to ensure an increase in the number of good and outstanding places in non-selective schools, the Government will apply conditions on new or expanding selective schools. These conditions may vary from school to school but the following menu of options will be available to ensure that new or expanding selective schools contribute in a meaningful way to improving outcomes for all pupils;
 - 7.1.1. Take a proportion of pupils from lower income households. This would ensure that selective education is not reserved for those with the means to move into the catchment area or pay for tuition to pass the test;
 - 7.1.2. Establish a new non-selective secondary school, with the capital and revenue costs paid by government;
 - 7.1.3. Establish a primary feeder in an area with higher density of lower income households to widen access, with the capital and revenue costs paid by government;
 - 7.1.4. Partner with an existing non-selective school within a multi-academy trust or sponsor a currently underperforming and non-selective academy.
 - 7.1.5. Ensure that there are opportunities to join the selective school at different ages, such as 14 and 16, as well as 11.
8. Concerning existing schools the Government also proposes to:
 - 8.1. Encourage multi-academy trusts to select within their trust. It will make clear that multi-academy trusts and/or other good or outstanding academies can already establish a single centre in which to educate their "most able" pupils. This centre could be 'virtual' or have a physical location.
 - 8.2. Require existing selective schools to engage in outreach activity. In order to ensure that disadvantaged pupils are encouraged to apply, the Government will expect existing selective schools to work closely in partnership with local primary schools to identify individual pupils who may benefit most from targeted activity.
 - 8.3. Require all selective schools to have in place strategies to ensure fair access. Legislation would require selective schools to prioritise the admission of, or set aside a number of specific places for, pupils of lower household income in their oversubscription criteria.
9. The consultation on the Green Paper's proposals is open until 12 December and the Board is invited to give its views to inform an LGA response.