

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Tabled up to and including

2 May 2025

The amendments are listed in accordance with the following Instruction –

Clauses 1 to 21	Schedule 3
Schedule 1	Clauses 52 to 60
Clauses 22 to 35	Schedule 4
Schedule 2	Clauses 61 to 67
Clauses 36 to 51	Title

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

After Clause 3

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING
BARONESS FINLAY OF LLANDAFF

★ After Clause 3, insert the following new Clause –

“Child contact centres

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations –
 - (a) require all child contact centres and organisations that offer child contact services to be accredited in accordance with national standards in relation to safeguarding and preventing domestic abuse;
 - (b) require all child contact centre staff and volunteers to undertake mandatory safeguarding and domestic abuse training which must establish processes to centre the voice and experience of the child and parent or carer at all stages of parental involvement;
 - (c) establish mechanisms to support and develop the role of contact centres in multi-agency risk assessment at a local level;
 - (d) set out a system-wide approach to risk assessment and risk management in child contact centres, including the provision of specialist support for parents, carers and children;
 - (e) ensure adequate funding and investment into child contact centres to ensure locally accessible and affordable provision.

- (2) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.”

After Clause 9

LORD YOUNG OF COOKHAM

- ★ After Clause 9, insert the following new Clause —

“Extension of priority need status to under 25s

- (1) The Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002 (S.I. 2022/2051) is amended as follows.
- (2) In article (4), paragraph (1)(a), for “twenty-one” substitute “twenty-five”.
- (3) In article (5), omit paragraph (1).”

Clause 15

LORD ADDINGTON

- ★ Clause 15, page 29, line 34, at end insert —

- “(c) independent schools wholly or mainly concerned with the provision of education and care for pupils with SEND.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to include independent special schools within the profit cap provision.

After Clause 18

LORD ADDINGTON

- ★ After Clause 18, insert the following new Clause —

“Establishment of a national body for SEND

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the passing of this Act, establish a national body for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in relation to children.
- (2) The functions of the national body for SEND will include, but not be limited to —
 - (a) national coordination of SEND provision for children,
 - (b) supporting the delivery of SEND support for children with very high needs, and
 - (c) advising on funding needed by local authorities for SEND provision for children.

- (3) Any mechanism used by the national body for SEND in advising on funding under subsection (2)(c) should be based on current need and may disregard historic spend.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to establish a national body for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in relation to children.

LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY



After Clause 18, insert the following new Clause –

“National standards for children in need thresholds

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within one year of the day on which this Act is passed, conduct a review of the operation of section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (provision of services for children in need, their families and others).
- (2) The review must assess regional and national variation in the type, frequency, and duration of support provided to children through child in need plans.
- (3) The recommendations of the review must include the –
 - (a) setting of metrics in the Department for Education’s Children’s Social Care Dashboard for assessing the progress of children on child in need plans, and
 - (b) publication of national guidance to local authorities defining the thresholds of need that children and families must meet to be offered children in need support.
- (4) The national guidance published under subsection (3)(b) must include –
 - (a) national triggers for an automatic referral to children’s social care, including when a primary care giver enters custody or inpatient mental health provision, and when a child is arrested,
 - (b) the Secretary of State’s expectations on how often children should receive help,
 - (c) the Secretary of State’s expectations on how frequently a child’s support should be reviewed when they have a child in need plan, and
 - (d) any other matters that the Secretary of State deems appropriate.”

Member's explanatory statement

The purpose of this new clause is to reduce regional variations in the type, frequency and duration of support that children receive through child in need plans.

After Clause 26

LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

★ After Clause 26, insert the following new Clause –

“Establishment of Child Protection Authority

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, establish a Child Protection Authority for England.
- (2) The purpose of the Authority is to –
 - (a) improve practice in child protection,
 - (b) provide advice and make recommendations to the Government on child protection policy and reforms to improve child protection,
 - (c) inspect institutions and settings at some times and in such ways as it considers necessary and appropriate to ensure compliance with child protection standards, and
 - (d) monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and other inquiries relating to the protection of children.
- (3) The Authority must act with a view to –
 - (a) safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children;
 - (b) ensuring that institutions and settings fulfil their responsibilities in relation to child protection.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment establishes the Child Protection Authority for England.

After Clause 28

BARONESS WALMSLEY

★ After Clause 28, insert the following new Clause –

“Free school meals: provision and eligibility

Section 512ZB of the Education Act 1996 (provision of free school lunches and milk) is amended as follows –

- (a) after subsection (4)(c), insert –

“(ca) C meets any conditions prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph and belongs to a household whose income is less than £20,000 per year after tax.”

- (b) after paragraph (4B), insert –

“(4BA) The Secretary of State must ensure that free school meals are provided to all children in England who are eligible to receive free school meals.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would expand eligibility for free school meals for children from families earning less than £20,000 after tax.

BARONESS WALMSLEY

★ After Clause 28, insert the following new Clause —

“Review of free school meal eligibility and pupil premium registration

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, conduct a review of —
 - (a) the number of children in England who are eligible for free school meals but are not claiming them,
 - (b) the number of children who are eligible for free school meals but are not registered for the purposes of pupil premium funding,
 - (c) the number of additional children who would be eligible for free school meals if the income thresholds had been uprated in line with inflation since 2018, and
 - (d) the number of additional children who would be eligible for free school meals if the income thresholds were set at £20,000 per annum after tax.
- (2) A review under subsection (1) must include an assessment of —
 - (a) barriers preventing eligible children from claiming free school meals,
 - (b) disparities in take-up rates across different regions and demographics, and
 - (c) the financial and educational impact of under-registration on schools and local authorities.
- (3) The Secretary of State must lay a report before Parliament setting out the findings of the review, including any recommendations for improving registration for and take-up of free school meals and pupil premium funding.
- (4) The review and report required under this section must be repeated annually.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires a review of free school meal eligibility and pupil premium registration.

Clause 29

LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

★ Clause 29, page 49, leave out lines 9 to 16 and insert —

- “(1) The appropriate authority of a relevant school in England may not require a pupil at the school to have to buy branded items of school uniform for use during a school year which cost more in total to purchase than a specified monetary amount, to be reviewed annually.

- (1A) The Secretary of State may by regulations specify the monetary amount that may apply to—
 - (a) a primary pupil, and
 - (b) a secondary pupil.
- (1B) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1A) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment imposes a monetary cap, rather than an item cap, on branded uniform items.

BARONESS BARRAN

- ★ Clause 29, page 49, line 27, after “school” insert “except items of kit required when representing the school in sporting activities”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to exclude items of PE kit required when representing the school in sporting activities from the limit on branded items of school uniform.

After Clause 29

LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

- ★ After Clause 29, insert the following new Clause —

“VAT zero-rating for certain items of school uniform

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, make provision by regulations for certain items of school uniform to be zero-rated for the purposes of VAT.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, “certain items of school uniform” means items of school uniform for pupils up to the age of 16.
- (3) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment makes provision for certain items of school uniform to be zero-rated for the purposes of VAT.

Clause 30

BARONESS BARRAN

- ★ Clause 30, page 51, line 23, at end insert —

- “(c) providing services to the child or their family under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (provision of services for children in need, their families and others), or
- (d) has ever provided services to the child or their family under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 (local authority’s duty to investigate).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure local authorities had to consent to withdrawing children from school if there is a child protection plan in place or if a child is a “child in need”, or if there has ever been a child protection plan in place, in relation to the relevant child or their family.

Clause 31

BARONESS BARRAN

- ★ Clause 31, page 54, leave out lines 43 and 44

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to remove a requirement for the register of children not in school to include details of how much time a child spends being educated by parents.

BARONESS BARRAN

- ★ Clause 31, page 55, line 2, after “parent” insert “, in respect of each individual or organisation which provides such education for more than six hours a week”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that information relating to short activities such as those operated by museums, libraries, companies and charities, as well as individual private tutoring activities, would only need to be recorded on the register of children not in school if they are provided for more than six hours a week.

BARONESS BARRAN

- ★ Clause 31, page 58, line 29, after “436B)” insert “but does not include any person or provider that is providing out-of-school education to home-educated children on weekends or during school holidays”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to remove the requirement that providers of out-of-school education must provide information to local authorities in respect of education they provide on weekends or during school holidays to home-schooled children.

BARONESS BARRAN

- ★ Clause 31, page 58, line 36, after “way” insert —
“but may not refer to an amount of time that is less than or equal to six hours a week”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to remove the requirement that providers of out-of-school education must provide information to local authorities where they provide education for fewer than six hours a week.

After Clause 31

LORD STOREY

- ★ After Clause 31, insert the following new Clause —
- “Review of impact on home educators and reduction of unnecessary reporting**
- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, conduct a review and report of the impact of section 31 on home educators in England.
 - (2) The review must include an assessment of —
 - (a) the administrative and reporting requirements placed on home educators as a result of section 31,
 - (b) the administrative and reporting requirements placed on local authorities as a result of section 31,
 - (c) the extent to which such requirements are necessary for safeguarding purposes, and
 - (d) any data or reporting obligations that can be reduced or removed for home educators where they are not essential for safeguarding.
 - (3) The Secretary of State must lay a report before Parliament setting out the findings of the review, including —
 - (a) an analysis of the impact of section 31 on home educators,
 - (b) a clear outline of any data or reporting obligations that will no longer be required from home educators, and
 - (c) a timeline for the removal of unnecessary reporting obligations, which must not exceed 12 months from the publication of the report.
 - (4) In conducting the review, the Secretary of State must consult with representatives of home educators and relevant stakeholders.
 - (5) The report must be made publicly available.
 - (6) The Secretary of State must ensure that any reporting obligations identified as unnecessary under subsection (3)(b) are removed within the timeframe specified in subsection (3)(c).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to conduct a review and report of the impact of section 31 on home educators in England.

LORD STOREY

★

After Clause 31, insert the following new Clause —

“Arrangements for national examinations for children not in school

After section 436G of the Education Act 1996 (inserted by section 31) insert —

“436GA Arrangements for national examinations for children not in school

Where a child is eligible to be registered by the authority under section 436B, the authority must —

- (a) provide for the child to be able to sit any relevant national examination, and
- (b) provide financial assistance to enable the child to sit any relevant national examination,

where requested by the parent or carer of the child.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would mean that where a child is required to be placed on the register, that child qualifies for financial assistance to sit any relevant national exam.

Clause 46

BARONESS BARRAN

Baroness Barran gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Clause 46 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 47

BARONESS BARRAN

Baroness Barran gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Clause 47 stand part of the Bill.

After Clause 47

LORD STOREY

★ After Clause 47, insert the following new Clause —

“Flexibility to take into account local circumstances when following the National Curriculum

- (1) The Education Act 2002 (establishment of the National Curriculum for England by order) is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 87, after subsection (1) insert —
 - “(1A) In any revision to the National Curriculum for England, the Secretary of State must ensure that the National Curriculum shall consist of —
 - (a) a core framework, and
 - (b) subjects or areas of learning outside the core framework that allow flexibility for each school to take account of their specific circumstances.”
- (3) In section 210 (orders and regulations), after subsection (3)(e) insert —
 - “(ea) section 87, or”.

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to increase flexibility to take into account local circumstances when following the National Curriculum and to make any changes to the National Curriculum subject to Parliamentary approval.

Clause 49

BARONESS BARRAN

★ Clause 49, page 113, line 26, leave out from “as” to the end of line 28 and insert “are necessary to secure compliance with statutory duties, the requirements of a Funding Agreement, or charity law.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to limit the Secretary of State's power of direction should an Academy breach, or act unreasonably in respect of, the performance of a relevant duty.

BARONESS BARRAN

Baroness Barran gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Clause 49 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 50

BARONESS BARRAN

Baroness Barran gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Clause 50 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 56

BARONESS BARRAN

Baroness Barran gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Clause 56 stand part of the Bill.

Clause 57

BARONESS BARRAN

Baroness Barran gives notice of her intention to oppose the Question that Clause 57 stand part of the Bill.

After Clause 62

BARONESS BARRAN

★

After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause—

“Prohibition of smartphones during the school day

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, all schools in England must have a policy that prohibits the use and possession of smartphones by pupils during the school day.
- (2) Any policy implemented under subsection (1)—
 - (a) may provide for exemptions from the policy, or for an alternative policy, for sixth form students, in so far as such exemptions or alternative policies do not negatively impact upon the wider policy,
 - (b) may provide for exemptions for medical devices,
 - (c) is to be implemented as the relevant school leader considers appropriate, and
 - (d) may, where implemented by a boarding school or residential school, include appropriate guidance for the use of certain devices during other periods in which their pupils are on school premises, subject to such policies safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in accordance with relevant national standards.
- (3) For the purposes of this section—

“smartphones” means a mobile telephone that is able to connect to the internet and whose main purpose is not the support of learning or study;

“the school day” includes all time between the start of the first lesson period and the end of the final lesson period.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause requires schools to ban the use of smartphones during the school day.

BARONESS BARRAN

★

After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause —

“Duty for schools to report acts of violence against staff to the police

- (1) Where an act which meets the conditions set out in subsection (2) takes place which involves the use or threat of force against a member of a school's staff, the school must report the incident to the police.
- (2) An act must be reported to the police where —
 - (a) it is directed towards a member of school staff or their property, and
 - (b) it takes place —
 - (i) on school property, or
 - (ii) because of the victim's status as a member of a school's staff.
- (3) The provisions of this section do not require or imply a duty on the police to take specific actions in response to such reports.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause seeks to create a duty for all schools to report acts or threats of violence against their staff to the police. It would not create a requirement for the police to charge the perpetrator.

BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

★

After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause —

“Duty of school governing bodies regarding mental health provision

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), the governing body of a maintained or academy school in England has a duty to make arrangements for provision in the school of a dedicated education mental health practitioner.
- (2) In subsection (1) “education mental health practitioner” means a person with a graduate-level or postgraduate-level qualification of that name earned through a course commissioned by NHS England.
- (3) Where a school has 100 or fewer pupils, the duty under subsection (1) may be satisfied through collaborative provision between several schools.
- (4) The Secretary of State must provide, or make arrangements for the provision of, appropriate financial and other support to school governing bodies for the purposes of facilitating the fulfilling of the duty in subsection (1).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the governing body of a maintained or academy school in England to make arrangements for provision in the school of a dedicated education mental health practitioner.

LORD STOREY

★

After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause —

“National tutoring guarantee

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the passing of this Act, publish a report outlining the steps necessary to introduce a national tutoring guarantee.
- (2) A “national tutoring guarantee” means a statutory requirement on the Secretary of State to ensure access to small group academic tutoring for all disadvantaged children who require academic support.
- (3) A report published under this section must include an assessment of how best to deliver targeted academic support from qualified tutors to children —
 - (a) from low-income backgrounds,
 - (b) with low prior attainment,
 - (c) with additional needs, or
 - (d) who are young carers.
- (4) In preparing a report under this section, the Secretary of State must consult with —
 - (a) headteachers,
 - (b) teachers,
 - (c) school leaders,
 - (d) parents of children from low-income backgrounds,
 - (e) children from low-income backgrounds, and
 - (f) other individuals or organisations as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (5) A report under this section must be laid before Parliament.
- (6) Within three months of a report under this section being laid before Parliament, the Secretary of State must take steps to begin implementation of the recommendations contained in the report.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to publish a report outlining the steps required to introduce a national tutoring guarantee, and to begin implementing its recommendations.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

★ After Clause 62, insert the following new Clause –

“Duty to provide relationships and sex education and PSHE to persons who have not attained the age of 18 at further education institutions

- (1) The Children and Social Work Act 2017 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 34 (education relating to relationships and sex) –
 - (a) at the end of subsection (1)(b) insert –
 - “(c) relationships and sex education to be provided to persons who have not attained the age of 18 and who are receiving education at post-16 education institutions in England.”;
 - (b) in subsection (2)(a), after “schools” insert “and further education providers”;
 - (c) in subsection (2)(b), after “schools” insert “and further education providers”;
 - (d) in subsection (2)(c), after “schools” insert “and further education providers”.
- (3) In section 35 (other personal, social, health and economic education) –
 - (a) at the end of subsection (1)(b) insert –
 - “(c) to persons who have not attained the age of 18 and who are receiving education at post-16 education institutions in England.”;
 - (b) in subsection (2)(a), after “schools” insert “and further education providers”;
 - (c) in subsection (2)(b), after “schools” insert “and further education providers”;
 - (d) in subsection (2)(c), after “schools” insert “and further education providers”.

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would extend the existing provision of relationships and sex education and PSHE under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 to people under the age of 18 who are receiving education at post-16 education institutions in England.

Clause 66

BARONESS FINLAY OF LLANDAFF

★ Clause 66, page 124, line 18, at end insert –

- “(2A) Section (*Abolition of common law defence of reasonable punishment*) comes into force at the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on a new clause amendment by Baroness Finlay of Llandaff.

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Tabled up to and including

2 May 2025

2 May 2025

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS