

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

AMENDMENTS

TO BE MOVED

IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

[Supplementary to the Eighth Marshalled List]

After Clause 47

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 47, insert the following new Clause—

“Exemption from requirement to follow National Curriculum in the interests of improving standards

In the Education Act 2002, after section 95 (Appeals against directions under section 93 etc) insert—

“95A Exception in the interests of improving standards

Where the proprietor of an Academy school or a local authority maintained school believes that the raising of standards in the school would be better served by the school’s curriculum not including the National Curriculum, any provisions of this Act or any other Act do not apply so far as they require the school’s curriculum to include or follow the National Curriculum.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to allow schools to narrow their curriculum if it would result in improving standards.

Clause 49

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 49, page 113, line 33, at end insert—

“(2A) The Secretary of State must make an annual statement to both Houses of Parliament, which must include—

- (a) the number of times the Secretary of State exercised the powers under this section,

- (b) the actions taken, and
- (c) the reasons for taking such actions.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to require the Secretary of State to make a statement to Parliament annually that sets out how often the Secretary of State has directed the powers of the proprietor of an Academy.

Clause 50

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 50, page 114, leave out lines 18 to 39, and insert—

- “(a) in subsection (A1), at the end insert “unless the Secretary of State determines that no suitable sponsor is available”;
- (b) after subsection (A1) insert—
 - “(A2) Where the Secretary of State determines that no suitable sponsor is available, the Secretary of State must, within 14 days, publish a plan to secure appropriate governance and leadership of the school and to secure its rapid improvement.
 - (A3) A plan published under subsection (A2) must include—
 - (a) the parties with responsibility for the school and its improvement,
 - (b) the parties who will take action to improve provision in the school,
 - (c) the resources that will be provided to the relevant parties, including who will provide the resources and when the resources will be provided, and
 - (d) the intended outcomes of the plan, with the relevant timetables for the outcomes.
 - (A4) The Secretary of State must report annually to Parliament on—
 - (a) the number of times the Secretary of State has published a plan under subsection (A2),
 - (b) the resources which have been provided as part of any plans, and
 - (c) the outcomes of any plans.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to retain the existing requirement to make an academy order unless the Secretary of State determines there is no suitable sponsor available.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 50, page 114, line 20, at end insert –

“(c) after subsection (7), insert –

“(7A) No application or petition for judicial review may be made or brought in relation to a decision taken by the Secretary of State to make an Academy order.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to prevent a judicial review being brought if the Secretary of State makes an academy order.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 50, page 114, line 20, at end insert –

“(c) after subsection (1), insert –

“(1ZA) The Secretary of State must make an Academy order in respect of a maintained school in England if –

- (a) Ofsted has judged the school to require significant improvement, or
- (b) a Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence team has judged the school to be significantly underperforming when compared with neighbouring schools with similar demographics.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to require an Academy order to be made to a maintained school if Ofsted has judged the school to require significant improvement or a RISE team have judged the school to be significantly underperforming.

After Clause 54

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 54, insert the following new Clause –

“Power to direct admission not to have regard to maintained or Academy status

In section 96 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (direction to admit child to specified school), after subsection (2) insert –

“(2A) A direction under this section may not take into account whether a school is a maintained school or an Academy.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that the decisions regarding pupil admissions numbers do not take into account whether the school is an Academy or a local authority maintained school.

Clause 56

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 56, page 118, line 29, at end insert –

- “(4A) Where making a decision the adjudicator must take into account –
- (a) the performance of the school, and
 - (b) whether the school is oversubscribed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that the adjudicator must consider the performance and the subscription of the school.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 56, page 118, leave out lines 33 to line 38

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to remove the regulation-making power which would specify the matters the adjudicator must consider if changing the pupil admissions number.

After Clause 56

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 56, insert the following new Clause –

“Limits on objections to changes to PAN

In section 88H of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (reference of objections to adjudicator), after subsection (2) insert –

- “(2A) No objection may be referred to the adjudicator which –
- (a) objects to an increase in a school's published admissions number, or
 - (b) objects to a school's published admissions number remaining at the same level.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to limit objections pupil admissions numbers if they increase or remain stable.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 56, insert the following new Clause –

“High performing schools to be allowed to expand PAN

In section 88D of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (determination of admission numbers), after subsection (1) insert –

“(1A) Where a school –

- (a) being a primary school, has over 60% of its pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined in the Key Stage 2 national curriculum assessments,
- (b) being a secondary school, is performing above +0.5 on Progress 8, wishes to increase its published admissions number, the admission authority must reflect that wish in its determination.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to allow high performing schools to be able to increase their pupil admission numbers.

After Clause 66

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 66, insert the following new Clause –

“Education Act 2002: exemptions related to school performance

In section 216 (commencement) of the Education Act 2002, after subsection (3), insert –

“(3A) The following provisions come into force on the day on which the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2025 is passed –

- (a) section 6,
- (b) section 7,
- (c) section 8,
- (d) section 9, and
- (e) section 10.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to commence Chapter 2 of Part 1 of the Education Act 2002 (Exemptions related to school performance), which would allow well-performing schools to be exempt from curriculum provision and pay and conditions provision.

After Clause 67

LORD HAMPTON

After Clause 67, insert the following new Clause—

“Exemption from duty to follow National Curriculum

- (1) The Education Act 2002 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 78 (general requirements in relation to curriculum), after subsection (1), insert—
 - “(1A) Any school which has an Ofsted rating of outstanding or any equivalent Ofsted rating is exempt from the requirements under this section.”
- (3) In section 80 (basic curriculum for every maintained school in England), after subsection (2A), insert—
 - “(2B) Any school which has an Ofsted rating of outstanding or any equivalent Ofsted rating is exempt from the requirements under this section.””

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE
[Supplementary to the Eighth Marshalled List]

9 July 2025

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS