

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS ON REPORT

*Tabled up to and including
7 January 2026*

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

Clause 1

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 1, page 1, line 9, after “meeting” insert “, or family group conference,”

Member's explanatory statement

This is a probing amendment to understand why there is a difference in the terms used in the bill and the evaluation, and whether there is a different intent with the family group decision-making model.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 1, page 1, line 10, at end insert —

“(1A) The family group decision-making meeting, or meetings, must follow an evidence-based approach.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that the approach followed by local authorities is an evidence-based approach.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD MESTON

Clause 1, page 1, line 10, at end insert —

“(1A) Before a child is reunited with a family member, or family members, after a period of being looked after, a local authority must offer a family group

decision-making meeting to the child's parents or any other person with parental responsibility."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that children leaving care are offered the necessary support.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

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Clause 1, page 2, line 24, leave out from "child" to end of line 26 and insert "a local authority must, so far as is reasonably practicable and consistent with the child's welfare —

- “(a) ascertain the child's wishes and feelings regarding the exercise of those functions, and
- (b) give due consideration (having regard to the child's age and understanding) to such wishes and feelings of the child as the authority has been able to ascertain.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that local authorities will take into account the wishes and feelings of a child when making decisions about family group decision-making in relation to the child under section 31ZA of the Children Act 1989 (as inserted by clause 1).

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

Clause 1, page 2, line 26, at end insert —

- “(10) If the child is to be looked after by other family members as a result of the family group decision-making meeting, the local authority must make arrangements for the safety and welfare of the child concerned and where necessary, draw up a kinship support plan.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that if a child is to be looked after by other family members, the local authority must take appropriate action to ensure their safety and welfare.

After Clause 1

BARONESS BARRAN
BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

After Clause 1, insert the following new Clause —

“Cessation of Child Protection Plans

When proceedings are initiated or a care and supervision order is issued under section 31 of the Children Act 1989, if there is any cessation of child protection plans for children under five years old, that must be signed off by the relevant Director of Children's Services or Head of Social Work Practice.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that the relevant Director of Children's Services or Head of Social Work Practice is required to sign off any cessation of child protection plans for children under five years old once proceedings have been initiated or once a care and supervision order has been issued.

Clause 2

LORD STOREY

LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

Clause 2, page 3, line 9, at end insert –

- “(2B) Regulations made by the Secretary of State under subsection (2A)(b) must secure that persons who –
- (a) have functions relating to the provision of childcare or education (or both), and
 - (b) are the proprietor of two or more early years providers registered in England on the Early Years Register,
- are designated childcare or education agencies for the purposes of this section.
- (2C) Persons designated by virtue of subsection (2B) must –
- (a) participate in arrangements made under this section, including by securing appropriate representation at operational and strategic multi-agency safeguarding meetings;
 - (b) have regard to any reasonable request of the safeguarding partners to take part in local safeguarding activities, including briefings, training, learning events and audits;
 - (c) ensure that any safeguarding training provided in-house is consistent with the guidance and procedures of the relevant safeguarding partners.
- (2D) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that compliance with duties imposed under subsection (2C) is a condition of –
- (a) registration on the Early Years Register;
 - (b) the receipt by the person of funding from a local authority in respect of early education and childcare entitlements.
- (2E) In this section “early years provider” and “Early Years Register” have the same meaning as in Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that large nursery and early-years groups must actively participate in the arrangements, including local briefings and training, and allows this to be enforced through registration and funding conditions. It responds to the Government's acknowledgement that further measures may be needed to ensure childcare providers engage fully with local safeguarding partnerships.

LORD STOREY
LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

Clause 2, page 3, line 9, at end insert –

- “(2B) Regulations under subsection (2A)(b) must secure that a person is designated as a childcare or education agency if –
- (a) the person has functions relating to the provision of childcare or education (or both), and
 - (b) the person is the proprietor of two or more early years providers registered in England on the Early Years Register.
- (2C) In this section, “early years provider” and “Early Years Register” have the same meaning as in Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that any large nursery or early-years group which operates more than one registered setting is automatically brought within those arrangements as a designated agency.

After Clause 2

LORD STOREY
LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –

“Early years provider groups: safeguarding inspections

- (1) The Childcare Act 2006 is amended as follows.
- (2) After section 49 (inspections) insert –

“49A Inspections of early years provider groups: safeguarding

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations make provision for His Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education, Children’s Services and Skills (“the Chief Inspector”) to inspect and report on the adequacy of safeguarding arrangements in early years provider groups.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, an “early years provider group” is a person who –
 - (a) has a position of control or significant influence over two or more early years providers registered in England on the Early Years Register, or
 - (b) is of such other description as may be prescribed in the regulations.
- (3) Regulations under this section must, in particular –
 - (a) set out the criteria for determining which early years provider groups are to be subject to inspection;

- (b) make provision for the inspection to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children across the group;
 - (c) require the Chief Inspector to publish a report of each inspection.
- (4) Regulations under this section are to be made by statutory instrument and are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to make regulations enabling Ofsted to inspect and report at the level of large early years groups or nursery chains, so that safeguarding problems which span multiple settings can be identified and addressed at group level.

LORD STOREY
LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause—

“Safeguarding in early years provider groups: training and liaison with safeguarding partners

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the passing of this Act, revise the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework issued under section 39 of the Childcare Act 2006 (the Early Years Foundation Stage) so as to secure that early years provider groups comply with the requirements in subsections (2) and (3).
- (2) An early years provider group must ensure that its designated safeguarding leads—
 - (a) receive safeguarding training which includes, as a minimum, local child protection procedures and how to liaise with local statutory children’s services agencies and safeguarding partners;
 - (b) have explicit responsibility for ensuring that learning from serious incidents and safeguarding reviews is implemented consistently across the group.
- (3) An early years provider group must ensure that—
 - (a) all staff employed in its early years provision complete safeguarding training which meets mandatory criteria set by the Secretary of State;
 - (b) such training is kept up to date and is consistent with the guidance and procedures of the relevant safeguarding partners for each area in which the group operates.
- (4) In this section “early years provider group” means a person who is the proprietor of two or more early years providers registered in England on the Early Years Register.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the statutory framework to be revised so that large nursery groups must ensure their safeguarding leads and staff are trained in, and engaged with, local safeguarding arrangements across all of their settings.

Clause 3

BARONESS BARRAN
BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY

Clause 3, page 3, leave out lines 25 and 26

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to clarify what support the Secretary of State will require multi-agency partners to offer.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

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Clause 3, page 4, leave out lines 1 to 3 and insert—

- “(d) a constable or relevant police employee who—
 - (i) is nominated by the chief officer of police for a police area any part of which falls within the area of the local authority, and
 - (ii) has experience in child protection.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and my other amendment to clause 3, at page 4, line 20, would broaden the range of persons with policing functions who may be nominated to a multi-agency child protection team, and requires a person nominated by a chief officer of police to have experience in child protection.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

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Clause 3, page 4, line 20, at end insert—

- ““relevant police employee” means—
 - (a) a person (other than a constable) who is—
 - (i) employed, or engaged to provide services, for the purposes of a body of constables, and
 - (ii) under the direction and control of a person who has the direction and control of a body of constables, or
 - (b) a person who is—
 - (i) employed by the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a police authority, and
 - (ii) under the direction and control of a chief officer of police;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would define “relevant police employee” for the purposes of section 16EA of the Children Act 2004, inserted by clause 3, and as amended by my other amendment to clause 3, at page 4 line 1.

BARONESS BARRAN
BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY

Clause 3, page 5, line 43, leave out “only”

BARONESS BARRAN
BARONESS O'NEILL OF BEXLEY

Clause 3, page 5, line 44, at end insert “or in other local authorities where appropriate to meet the safeguarding needs of the child.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to clarify how cases which cross local authority borders will be managed.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

Clause 3, page 6, line 6, at end insert –

- “(6) The provisions of this section shall not come into force until the Secretary of State has –
- (a) published a report evaluating the impact of the Families First pathfinder areas on the key child protection objectives set out by the government, and
 - (b) laid the report before Parliament.
- (7) The report under subsection (6)(a) must include clear evidence demonstrating the extent to which the pathfinder areas have achieved improvements in –
- (a) early identification of children at risk of harm,
 - (b) effective intervention to prevent abuse and neglect,
 - (c) coordination between statutory agencies and family support services, and
 - (d) outcomes for children and families subject to safeguarding interventions.
- (8) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument specify the date on which this section comes into force, but only after the requirements in subsection (6) have been met.
- (9) Regulations under subsection (8) may not be made unless a draft has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to prevent Clause 3 from coming into force until the Secretary of State has published and laid before Parliament a report evaluating the impact of the Families First pathfinder areas on the government's stated child protection objectives. This would ensure that the approach has been properly tested and evidenced before national roll-out.

Clause 4

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 4, page 7, leave out lines 11 to 14

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

Clause 4, page 7, line 14, at end insert –

- “(9A) The safeguarding partners for a local authority area must ensure that arrangements made under section 16E include –
 - (a) multi-agency arrangements for coordinating initial information sharing and assessment in relation to safeguarding concerns about children,
 - (b) provision for concerns to be referred from the arrangements under paragraph (a) to a multi-agency child protection team established under section 16EA where the initial assessment indicates that enquiries under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 may be required, and
 - (c) processes to ensure continuity of information as cases are transferred from the arrangements under paragraph (a) to a multi-agency child protection team.
- (9B) Arrangements under subsection (9A)(a) must include provision for –
 - (a) a designated point of contact for receiving safeguarding concerns and information requests from persons to whom subsection (4) applies,
 - (b) timescales for sharing information and making multi-agency decisions about the appropriate level of response,
 - (c) thresholds and criteria for determining when concerns should be referred to a multi-agency child protection team, and
 - (d) secure systems and protocols for information sharing that comply with the data protection legislation.
- (9C) Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under subsection (6) must include provision about –
 - (a) effective models for multi-agency arrangements to facilitate initial information sharing and assessment,
 - (b) decision-making frameworks for determining when information indicates that section 47 enquiries may be required,

- (c) protocols for handover of information and coordination between initial multi-agency arrangements and multi-agency child protection teams, and
- (d) minimum standards for response times at each stage of multi-agency information sharing and assessment.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires safeguarding partners to establish practical multi-agency arrangements for initial information sharing before Section 47 thresholds can be determined. It aims to ensure cases transition smoothly to Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams when Section 47 enquiries are required.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 4, page 7, leave out lines 16 and 17

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 4, page 7, lines 11 to 14.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 4, page 7, line 19, at end insert —

“16LAA Information standards

- (1) The Secretary of State may prepare an information standard.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, “an information standard” is a standard in relation to the processing of information for the purposes of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children.
- (3) An information standard must specify to whom it applies.
- (4) An information standard may only apply to one or more persons falling within section 16LA(4).
- (5) A person to whom an information standard applies must have regard to the standard when processing information for the purposes of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children.
- (6) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Secretary of State may adopt all or part of any other information standard prepared or published under any other enactment or for a different purpose from the purpose mentioned in subsection (2).
- (7) The Secretary of State may revise an information standard from time to time.
- (8) The Secretary of State must publish the current version of each information standard prepared under this section.

- (9) Before publishing an information standard under this section, the Secretary of State must consult such persons (if any) as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (10) In this section, “processing” has the same meaning as in Parts 5 to 7 of the Data Protection Act 2018 (see section 3(4) and (14) of that Act).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would introduce a power for the Secretary of State to prepare an information standard in relation to the processing of information for the purposes of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of children, to which bodies processing such information must have regard.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

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Clause 4, page 7, leave out lines 21 and 22 and insert —

- “(1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for or in connection with —
 - (a) specifying a description of consistent identifier for the purposes of this section;
 - (b) requiring or authorising the disclosure of the consistent identifier to a designated person for the purpose of enabling the designated person to comply with subsection (4).
- (1A) A disclosure required or authorised by the regulations does not breach any obligation of confidence owed by the person disclosing the identifier.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would provide the Secretary of State with a regulation-making power to ensure designated persons under section 16LB (inserted by clause 4) can access the consistent identifier for children so those persons can comply with their duty to include the identifier when processing information about a child.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 4, page 7, leave out lines 21 to 27 and insert —

- “(1) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provisions relating to the consistent identifier for the purposes of this section.
- (2) For the purposes of this section the NHS number is the consistent identifier.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that the consistent identifier is on the face of the Bill, in the form of the NHS number, in order to ensure proper parliamentary scrutiny.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

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Clause 4, page 8, leave out lines 10 to 13

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 4, page 8, leave out lines 40 and 41

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 4, page 8, lines 10 to 13.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 4, page 8, line 41, at end insert –

“16LC Consistent identifiers for children: code of practice

- (1) The Secretary of State may issue a code of practice for –
 - (a) persons who are designated persons within the meaning of section 16LB(10) for the purposes of the duty in section 16LB(4), and
 - (b) persons who are service providers within the meaning of section 16LB(13).
- (2) Those persons must have regard to the code of practice when discharging their duties under section 16LB.
- (3) The Secretary of State may revise the code from time to time.
- (4) The Secretary of State must publish the current version of the code.
- (5) Before publishing the code, the Secretary of State must consult such persons (if any) as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would introduce a power for the Secretary of State to issue a code of practice for persons who will have a duty to include a consistent identifier for children in the information they process under section 16LB of the Children Act 2004, as inserted by clause 4.

After Clause 4

BARONESS MCINTOSH OF PICKERING
LORD MESTON
BARONESS FINLAY OF LLANDAFF
BARONESS BURT OF SOLIHULL

After Clause 4, insert the following new Clause —

“Child contact centres

- (1) All child contact centres and child contact organisations that offer child contact services must be accredited in accordance with national standards for safeguarding and preventing domestic abuse.
- (2) The accreditation in subsection (1) must be granted by the National Association of Child Contact Centres.
- (3) The Secretary of State must by regulations made by statutory instrument specify the standards and accreditation procedure under subsection (1).
- (4) 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.”

BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD
LORD STOREY
LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

After Clause 4, insert the following new Clause —

“National child neglect strategy

- (1) The Secretary of State must prepare and publish a national child neglect strategy for the purposes of protecting children from neglect.
- (2) In preparing a national child neglect strategy the Secretary of State must consider —
 - (a) groups of children that may be disproportionately affected by neglect;
 - (b) the role that socio-economic disadvantage has on levels of neglect;
 - (c) measures to equip local authority early intervention services and other relevant professionals to identify and respond to child neglect;
 - (d) the definition of child neglect, to ensure it is fit for purpose;
 - (e) the promotion of public awareness of child neglect.
- (3) The Secretary of State must consult with local authorities and other relevant stakeholders, including children, in the preparation of the national child neglect strategy.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to prepare a national neglect strategy to better understand and address the causes and impacts of child neglect, providing greater protection for children when delivering early intervention support for families.

Clause 5

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 5, page 10, line 5, at end insert –

- “(8) Before publishing its kinship local offer (or any updated version) a local authority must –
- (a) consult relevant persons about any services that are offered, or may be offered, by the local authority which may assist to improve outcomes for children living in the authority’s area who live in kinship care, and
 - (b) publish a report on the consultation.
- (9) In subsection (8), “relevant persons” in relation to a local authority, means such children living in kinship care, kinship carers and other persons as appear to the local authority to be representative of children living in kinship care and kinship carers in its area, which may include former kinship carers and children who used to be in kinship care.
- (10) The duty to consult in subsection (8) does not apply in relation to kinship local offers that are published or reviewed before section 5 of the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 comes into force.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would add a new duty for local authorities to consult with children in kinship care, and kinship carers, before the kinship local offer is published.

After Clause 5BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

After Clause 5, insert the following new Clause –

“Removal of unregistered status for approved kinship carers

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/959) and the Children Act 1989, no placement of a child with a kinship carer that is approved by the Director of Children’s Services shall be considered an unregistered placement.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to allow local authorities to place a child with a kinship carer without needing to meet the fostering placement standards, where it is judged by the Local Authority to be in the best interests of the child, as a registered placement, including for the purposes of Ofsted inspection.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

After Clause 5, insert the following new Clause —

“Requirements for kinship care approval: disapplication

In regulation 26 of the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 2011/581), after paragraph (9) insert —

“(10) This regulation does not apply to kinship carers.””

Member's explanatory statement

This removes the requirement for kinship carers who have been approved by the Director of Children's Services, including after a Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) process, to be reassessed by the foster panel.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

After Clause 5, insert the following new Clause —

“Kinship care report and regulations

- (1) The Secretary of State must, with 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, carry out a review assessing the effectiveness of the current pathways for approval of kinship carers.
- (2) The Secretary of State must lay a report setting out the findings of the review before Parliament.
- (3) Following the publication of the report required by subsection (1), the Secretary of State must introduce regulations regarding the approval of kinship carers.
- (4) These regulations must seek to —
 - (a) improve the safety and wellbeing of children in kinship care,
 - (b) reduce barriers to becoming to a kinship carer,
 - (c) establish a requirement for a kinship support plan which is monitored by the local authority for a minimum period and until the arrangements for the child are judged to be safe and the welfare of the child is being promoted, and
 - (d) reduce the burden for local authorities and the family courts.
- (5) 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 requires the Secretary of State to review and update the approval requirements for kinship carers.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 5, insert the following new Clause —

“Temporary care

In the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/959), in regulation 24 (temporary approval of relative, friend, or other person connected with C), omit paragraph (2)(c).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to remove the requirement for local authorities to undertake a full assessment of a temporary carer as if they were a foster carer, if they are to get temporary approval.

Clause 7

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 7, page 12, line 16, leave out from “assess” to the end of line 18 and insert “what staying close support is required in the interests of the person’s welfare, having due regard to the person’s —

- (a) wishes and preferences,
- (b) accommodation requirements,
- (c) emotional and practical support needs, and
- (d) existing support network.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would clarify the scope of the Staying Close scheme.

BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

BARONESS BARRAN

LORD STOREY

LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

Clause 7, page 12, line 32, at end insert —

“(vi) financial support and financial literacy”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment adds financial support and financial literacy as services relevant children must be provided access to, as part of “staying close support”.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 7, page 12, line 38, at end insert —

“(c) any other such support the local authority deems appropriate.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow the local authority to use discretion to offer additional support to care leavers under the age of 25.

Clause 8

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

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Clause 8, page 13, line 7, at end insert —

“(2A) In subsection (2), after paragraph (f) insert —

“(g) financial literacy.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would add services relating to financial literacy to the list of services in section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 which may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for, adulthood and independent living, and about which a local authority in England must publish information.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

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Clause 8, page 13, line 23, at end insert —

“(ca) providing financial support for care leavers;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would add arrangements made by local authorities for providing financial support to care leavers to the information that the authority must publish as part of its local offer to care leavers under section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 as amended by clause 8.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 8, page 13, line 23, at end insert —

“(ca) setting out the transition arrangements for health and primary care for care leavers;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment aims to include transition arrangements across health and into primary care for care leavers, including flagging care leaver status with the consent of the individual and clear guidelines on the role of health services in supporting care leavers.

After Clause 8

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 8, insert the following new Clause —

“General practice services for care leavers

In the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/1862), after regulation 32A (Suspension of contract terms or of enforcement of contract terms while a disease is or in anticipation of a disease being imminently pandemic etc.), insert the following new regulation —

“Due regard to additional health needs of care leavers

32B. — Contracts negotiated under these regulations must have due regard to the additional health needs of care leavers under 25.”.

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would place a duty on the Secretary of State to have due regard to the additional health needs of care leavers under 25 when negotiating general practice contracts in the future.

After Clause 9BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD
BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 9, insert the following new Clause —

“Promoting relationships for looked after children

In section 22(3A) of the Children Act 1989 (duty of local authority in relation to looked-after children), at end insert “and a duty to promote the child’s family and social relationships in ways which are consistent with the child’s welfare.”.

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment adds promotion of a child’s family and social relationships to the safeguarding duties of a local authority.

LORD STOREY

After Clause 9, insert the following new Clause —

“Extension of pupil premium to children subject to a kinship care arrangement

- (1) The Secretary of State must, for the financial year beginning 1 April 2026 and for each year thereafter, provide that an amount is payable from the pupil premium grant to schools and local authorities in respect of each registered pupil in England who is who is a child living in kinship care.
- (2) The amount payable under subsection (1) must be equal to the amount that is payable for a pupil who is a looked after child.

(3) In this section—

“a child living in kinship care” is to be interpreted in the same manner as given in section 22I of the Children Act 1989, as inserted by section 5 of this Act;

“looked after child” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989;

“pupil premium grant” means the grant of that name paid to a school or a local authority by the Secretary of State under section 14 of the Education Act 2002 (power of Secretary of State and Senedd Cymru to give financial assistance for purposes related to education or children etc).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would extend the pupil premium to children subject to a kinship care arrangement.

LORD STOREY

After Clause 9, insert the following new Clause—

“Kinship care allowance

- (1) A person is entitled to a kinship care allowance for any week in which that person is engaged as a kinship carer in England.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, a “kinship carer” has the meaning given in section 22I of the Children Act 1989, as inserted by section 5 of this Act.
- (3) A person is not entitled to an allowance under this section unless that person satisfies conditions prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (4) A person may claim an allowance under this section in respect of more than one child.
- (5) Where two or more persons would be entitled for the same week to such an allowance in respect of the same child, only one allowance may be claimed on the behalf of—
 - (a) the person jointly elected by those two for that purpose, or
 - (b) in default of such an election, the person determined by, and at the discretion of, the Secretary of State.
- (6) Regulations may prescribe the circumstances in which a person is or is not to be treated for the purposes of this section as engaged, or regularly and substantially engaged, in caring for a child under an eligible kinship care arrangement.
- (7) An allowance under this section is payable at the weekly rate specified by the Secretary of State in regulations.
- (8) Regulations under subsection (7) may specify—
 - (a) different weekly rates for different ages of children being cared for, or
 - (b) different weekly rates for different regions of England.
- (9) Regulations under subsection (7) must specify a weekly rate that is no lower than the minimum weekly allowance for foster carers published by the Secretary of

State pursuant to section 23 (national minimum standards) of the Care Standards Act 2000.

- (10) 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 would mean a person is entitled to a kinship care allowance for any week in which that person is engaged as a kinship carer in England.

LORD STOREY
BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 9, insert the following new Clause –

“Adoption and special guardianship support fund review

- (1) Within one month of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must conduct a review of the level of funding available per child from the adoption and special guardianship support fund.
- (2) The review must produce recommendations regarding any steps necessary to increase the funds available per child.
- (3) The review must be laid before both Houses of Parliament.”

LORD STOREY
BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 9, insert the following new Clause –

“Restoration of funding to the adoption and special guardianship support fund

Within one month of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must increase the funding available per child per year under the adoption and special guardianship support fund to a level equal to or greater than the funding available per child under the fund in March 2025.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would reverse the cut to the adoption and special guardianship support fund.

LORD STOREY
BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

After Clause 9, insert the following new Clause –

“Kinship care leave

- (1) The Secretary of State must, by regulations, entitle an individual to be absent from work on care leave under this section where –

- (a) the individual is a kinship carer, and
 - (b) the individual satisfies conditions specified in the regulations.
- (2) Regulations made under subsection (1) must include provision for determining—
 - (a) the extent of an individual's entitlement to leave under this section, and
 - (b) when leave under this section may be taken.
- (3) Provision under subsection (2)(a) must secure that—
 - (a) where one individual is entitled to leave under this section, they are entitled to at least 52 weeks of leave, or
 - (b) where more than one individual is entitled to leave under this section in respect of the same child, those individuals are entitled to share at least 52 weeks of leave between them.
- (4) An employee is entitled to leave under this section only if the eligible kinship care arrangement is intended to last—
 - (a) at least one year, and
 - (b) until the child being cared for attains the age of 18.
- (5) For the purposes of this section, a “kinship carer” has the meaning given in section 22I of the Children Act 1989, as inserted by section 5 of this Act.
- (6) Regulations made under this section may make provision about how leave under this section is to be taken.
- (7) 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 would introduce an entitlement for an individual to be absent from work on care leave where the individual is a kinship carer.

BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD
LORD MESTON
BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 9, insert the following new Clause—

“Promoting contact between siblings who are not living together

In paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/959) (care plans), for the words from “for” to “together” substitute “whom they are not living with”.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment extends requirements to promote contact between a child in care and siblings who are not living with them, including those not in care, so far as this is consistent with the child's welfare.

Before Clause 10

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Before Clause 10, insert the following new Clause –

“Children in temporary accommodation

- (1) After section 213A of the Housing Act 1996 (homelessness: co-operation in certain cases involving children) insert –

“213AA Duty of local housing authority in England to notify in certain cases involving children

- (1) This section applies where a local housing authority in England secures that accommodation is available for occupation by a child, in response to an application for assistance under this Part, unless securing that such accommodation is available means the authority ceases to be subject to the duty under section 193.
- (2) Except as provided in subsection (3), the authority must ask the parent of the child –
- (a) to agree to the authority notifying each relevant body applicable to the child that accommodation has been secured for the child as mentioned in subsection (1), and
 - (b) if that agreement is given, to provide the authority with information about those bodies to enable the authority to identify each relevant body applicable to the child.
- (3) If the child –
- (a) is 16 or 17 years old,
 - (b) is living independently from their parents, and
 - (c) is the applicant for assistance within the meaning of section 183(2),
- the authority must ask the child as provided in subsection (2)(a) and (b).
- (4) If the parent or child (as the case may be) agrees to the authority making the notification mentioned in subsection (2)(a), the authority must take reasonable steps to notify each relevant body applicable to the child within 14 days beginning with the latest of –
- (a) the day on which the authority receives agreement,
 - (b) the day on which the information about the relevant body is provided to the authority, and
 - (c) the day on which the child is placed in accommodation.
- (5) The duties in subsections (2) and (4) only arise once in relation to each application for assistance under this Part.
- (6) In this section “relevant body” means –
- (a) the general medical practice in England with which the child is registered;

- (b) the body in the child's local authority area in England through which health visiting services are available to the child;
 - (c) the appropriate authority of a relevant educational institution in England at which the child is a registered pupil or student.
- (7) The Secretary of State may make provision by regulations for the purposes of this section –
 - (a) specifying any other description of body as a “relevant body”;
 - (b) specifying any other institution as a relevant educational institution;
 - (c) specifying the appropriate authority to be notified under this section in relation to an institution specified under paragraph (b).
- (8) In this section –
 - “appropriate authority” means –
 - (a) in relation to an Academy, a non-maintained special school, a special post-16 institution, an independent school or a provider of post-16 education or training, the proprietor;
 - (b) in relation to a school maintained by a local authority or an institution within the further education sector, the governing body;
 - “child” means a person under the age of 18;
 - “parent” in relation to a child, includes any person –
 - (a) who is not a parent of the child but who has parental responsibility for the child, or
 - (b) who has care of the child, disregarding any absence of the child at a hospital or boarding school or any other temporary absence;
 - “parental responsibility” has the meaning given by section 3 of the Children Act 1989;
 - “proprietor” means the person or body of persons responsible for the management of the school or institution;
 - “relevant educational institution” means –
 - (a) an Academy (as defined by section 579(1) of the Education Act 1996) other than a secure 16-19 Academy (within the meaning of section 1B(7) of the Academies Act 2010);
 - (b) a school maintained by a local authority (within the meaning of section 142(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998);
 - (c) a non-maintained special school (within the meaning of section 337A of the Education Act 1996);
 - (d) an independent school (within the meaning of section 463 of the Education Act 1996);
 - (e) an institution within the further education sector (within the meaning of section 91(3) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992);
 - (f) a special post-16 institution (within the meaning of section 83 of the Children and Families Act 2014);

- (g) a provider of post-16 education or training that provides the kind of education or training mentioned in section 123(1)(d) or (g) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006;
 - (h) a provider of post-16 education or training that provides education or training, other than in institutions within the further education sector, which is suitable to the requirements of persons aged 16 or over but under 19 and funded wholly or partly by the Secretary of State.”
- (2) The amendment made by this section does not apply in relation to a child for whom a local housing authority in England has secured accommodation in response to an application for assistance under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 which was made before the date on which this section comes into force.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would insert a new section into the Housing Act 1996, imposing a duty on local housing authorities in England to notify health and educational bodies when a child is placed in temporary accommodation where the parent (or the child in some cases) agrees to that notification being made.

Clause 10

LORD BELLINGHAM

Clause 10, page 14, line 32, at end insert—

- “(2A) Regional co-operation arrangements must include the local integrated care board in their development, delivery and governance.”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment aims to highlight the need to include health agencies in the regional cooperation arrangements.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 10, page 15, leave out lines 8 to 15

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to remove the Secretary of State's power to add to the list of strategic accommodation functions for local authorities.

Clause 11

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON
BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

Clause 11, page 16, line 33, after “care” insert “, education”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that children deprived of their liberty have access to education.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD MESTON
BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

Clause 11, page 16, line 37, at end insert –

- “(1C) Directors of Children’s Services must review deprivation of liberty orders, under this section, every four weeks to ensure that it is appropriate for the order to remain in place.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require a review of deprivation of liberty orders to ensure that they remain appropriate for the relevant child.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER
BARONESS BARRAN
LORD MESTON
BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

Clause 11, page 17, line 8, at end insert –

“(5A) After subsection (4) insert –

- “(4A) Where an application is made under this section with respect to a child, the appropriate local authority must, within such time as the court may direct, prepare a plan setting out the action to be taken to end the deprivation of liberty of that child (“recovery plan”).”.

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires local authorities to prepare a recovery plan for any child who is deprived of their liberty.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL
THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER

Clause 11, page 17, line 25, at end insert –

- “(8ZB) Where arrangements are made for the accommodation of a child under this section, health authorities specified in subsection (8ZC) must make joint funding arrangements under this section for the provision of that care.

(8ZC) The authorities are –

- (a) NHS England,
- (b) any integrated care board, Local Health Board, Special Health Authority, National Health Service trust or NHS foundation trust,

- (c) the Secretary of State in relation to his functions under section 12 of the National Health Service Act 2006, and
- (d) any person authorised by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this section.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires joint funding arrangements to be made by relevant health providers for the accommodation of children under section 25 of the Children Act 1989. By mandating joint funding from NHS England, integrated care boards, and other specified health authorities, this amendment seeks to ensure that children receive more holistic and joined up support.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★

Clause 11, page 17, line 25, at end insert –

“(9A) In section 104 of the Children Act 1989 (regulations and orders) –

- (a) in subsection (3A), after “(3B)” insert “, (3BZA)”;
- (b) after subsection (3B) insert –

“(3BZA) Regulations fall within this subsection if they are regulations made in the exercise of the power conferred by section 25(2) or (7).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that regulations made under section 25(2) or (7) of the Children Act 1989 (use of accommodation for restricting liberty) as amended by clause 11, will be subject to the affirmative procedure.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER
BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 11, page 17, line 40, at end insert –

“(12) The relevant Secretaries of State for Education and for Health and Social Care must collaborate to lay before parliament, annually, a review of the impact of the measures contained in this section.

(13) The review must, as a minimum, consider and report on the following matters –

- (a) the numbers of new section 25 orders made during the last year in England and in Wales, the ages of the children placed under them, and an analysis of whether and where the rate of use is increasing or decreasing;
- (b) the durations of child detention or other restriction of liberty under such orders (minimum, maximum, mean and median);
- (c) the types of accommodation in which section 25 orders have been applied, including their registration status with Ofsted or the Care Quality Commission;
- (d) the approval and use of ‘recovery plans’ for all children to move on from section 25 orders in a short a period as safely possible;

- (e) the involvement of Independent Reviewing Officers, independent advocates and children themselves in the making and reviewing of section 25 orders;
- (f) the types of accommodation where children live following the end of a section 25 order.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require a review to be laid before Parliament, outlining the quantity and impact of section 25 orders that year.

After Clause 11

BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD
LORD WATSON OF INVERGOWRIE

After Clause 11, insert the following new Clause—

“Extending “staying put arrangements” to the age of 25

In section 23CZA(6) of the Children Act 1989 (arrangements for certain former relevant children to continue to live with former foster parents), for “21” substitute “25”.

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would extend the staying put arrangements to the age of 25.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 11, insert the following new Clause—

“Independent reviewing officer functions in relation to deprivation of liberty

- (1) Section 25B of the Children Act 1989 (functions of the independent reviewing officer) is amended as follows.
- (2) After subsection (3) insert—
 - “(3A) The independent reviewing officer has a duty to refer a child’s case to an officer of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service if the child’s recovery plan made under section 25 is not effectively implemented by the local authority or any other body or person.””

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause expands the legal duties of the independent reviewing officer in relation to the oversight of an order, building upon section 25B Children Act 1989 and Regulation 45(3) of The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010.

BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

After Clause 11, insert the following new Clause—

“Amending the sufficiency duty to prevent children being moved far away from home

- (1) Section 22G of the Children Act 1989 (general duty of local authority to secure sufficient accommodation for looked after children) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1), for “steps that secure, so far as reasonably practicable” substitute “all reasonable steps to secure”.
- (3) In subsection (2)(a), after “within” insert “or is near to”.
- (4) In subsection (3)(c), for “in” substitute “within, or is near to”.
- (5) In subsection (4), omit from “having” to the end and substitute “there being a range of accommodation that—
 - (a) is within, or near to, the authority’s area, and
 - (b) is capable of meeting the differing needs of the children mentioned in subsection (3).”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause amends the sufficiency duty to prevent children being moved far away from home.

BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

After Clause 11, insert the following new Clause—

“Health assessments to include mental health practitioner

In Section 7 of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010—

- (a) in paragraph (1), after “practitioner” insert “and a registered mental health practitioner”;
- (b) in paragraph (3), after “midwife” insert “or a registered mental health practitioner”.

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would make an assessment of the mental health of children in care a core part of the health assessment of those children by ensuring a mental health practitioner is involved in the initial and regular assessments.

Clause 12

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 12, page 18, line 3, at end insert —

“(1A) After section 16, insert —

“16A Registration of parent undertakings

- (1) In making an application for registration under this Part, an agency or establishment which is a subsidiary undertaking must ensure that the application contains information about the parent undertaking.
- (2) If the application is granted under section 13 (grant or refusal of registration), the establishment or agency must ensure that information related to the parent undertaking is regularly updated.
- (3) The Secretary of State may, by regulations under section 16 (regulations about registration), make provision for the enforcement of the duty under subsection (2).
- (4) In this section, “parent undertaking” and “subsidiary undertaking” have the meanings given by section 1162 of the Companies Act 2006.””

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 12, page 20, line 5, at end insert —

- “(5A) If the CIECSS approves the improvement plan under subsection (5), during the period of implementation of the improvement plan the parent undertaking must not —
- (a) acquire additional subsidiary undertakings, unless the CIECSS consents, on application, to such an acquisition,
 - (b) open new establishments or agencies,
 - (c) engage in organisational restructuring, including through changes to the ownership, or
 - (d) engage in financial restructuring, including through —
 - (i) negotiating with creditors for lower interest and longer payment terms,
 - (ii) raising new capital,
 - (iii) changing share structures, or
 - (iv) offering debt-to-equity arrangements.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that while the parent undertaking is implementing an approved improvement plan, they cannot expand or restructure the ownership or finances of the company.

After Clause 12

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★

Clause 12, page 22, line 13, leave out subsection (5) and insert –

“(5) In section 37 (service of documents) –

(a) in subsection (1) –

(i) omit the words from “carrying” to “agency”;

(ii) omit the “or” at the end of paragraph (a);

(iii) at the end of paragraph (b) insert “; or

(c) by being sent by email to the person’s email address.”;

(b) after subsection (3) insert –

“(3A) A notice or other document sent to a person by email is, unless the contrary is proved, to be treated as having been served on the working day immediately following the day on which it was sent.”;

(c) after subsection (5) insert –

“(6) A person’s (P’s) email address for the purposes of this section is –

(a) an email address identified for the time being by P, or by a person who manages an establishment or agency carried on by P, as an address for contacting P, or

(b) if an email address is not so identified, an email address which the person serving the notice or other document believes is used by P.

For the purposes of this subsection, a person “identifies” an email address by providing it to a registration authority or publishing it.

(7) In subsection (3A) “working day” means a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971 in England and Wales.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow for notices under Part 2 of the Care Standards Act 2000 to be served on parent undertakings and others by email.

Clause 13

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★

Clause 13, page 23, leave out lines 23 to 29

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted

by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

Clause 18

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 18, page 35, line 29, leave out “Except as provided by subsection (9),”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 18, page 35, line 35.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 18, page 35, line 35, leave out from beginning to end of line 2 on page 36

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 18, page 36, line 11, leave out “Except as provided for by subsection (4),”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 18, page 36, lines 17 to 22.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 18, page 36, leave out lines 17 to 22

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

Clause 20

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 20, page 38, line 33, leave out “aged 16 or 17”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would provide that for the purposes of the care provider offence in section 21 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 (as amended by clause 20) “regulated care” includes care or support provided for any child rather than only a child aged 16 or 17.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 20, page 39, line 9, leave out “an individual aged 16 or 17” and insert “a child”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 20 at page 38, line 33.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 20, page 39, line 11, after “second definition” insert —
“(i) before ““health care”” insert ““child”, ”;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 20 at page 38, line 33.

Clause 21

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER
LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

Clause 21, page 39, line 28, at end insert —

- “(e) to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise the disadvantages suffered by looked-after children and relevant young persons.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment strengthens the current duty to be “alert to” the needs of looked-after children by requiring public bodies to have due regard to removing or reducing the disadvantages they face. It builds on awareness by turning it into action, ensuring that understanding leads to measurable improvement. This approach embeds care-experienced voices in decision-making and creates a shared responsibility across agencies, helping to break down silo working and deliver joined-up support.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER
LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

Clause 21, page 39, line 34, at end insert —

- “(2A) A relevant authority exercising the duty under subsection (1) must take reasonable steps to avoid, reduce or otherwise mitigate any adverse impact of its policies and practices on looked-after children and relevant young persons.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that public bodies move beyond being merely aware of care-experienced young people's needs to taking reasonable and practical steps to prevent harm caused by their policies. It complements the cultural aims of the Bill by providing a clear framework for shared action and accountability. By requiring active consideration of how decisions affect care-experienced people, it will amplify their voices, strengthen collaboration, and provide a mechanism to break down silo working across education, health, housing, and social care.

Clause 22

LORD MORAES
BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

Clause 22, page 40, line 8, leave out subsections (1) and (2) and insert—

- “(1) If the duty under section 21(1) would require anything of the Secretary of State that is already required by section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2019 (duty regarding the welfare of children), then the duty under section 21(1) does not apply to the Secretary of State.
- (2) In the exercise of—
- (a) the duty under section 21(1) of this Act (insofar as it applies), and
 - (b) the duty under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2019,
- the Secretary of State must ensure that nationality functions in relation to the acquisition of British citizenship by statutory right are distinguished from other nationality and immigration functions.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure there is no duplication of duties on the Secretary of State while ensuring that (i) the duties on corporate parents under section 21(1) concerning the wellbeing of young people include appropriate consideration and attention to matters of nationality rights and other matters of status in the UK; and (ii) it is made clear, for these purposes, that statutory rights to British citizenship must not be wrongly categorised or treated as if matters of immigration or discretion.

Clause 23

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★

Clause 23, page 41, line 9, leave out paragraph (a)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 23, page 41, leave out lines 19 to 21

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 23, page 41, lines 9 to 12.

Clause 26

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 26, page 44, line 35, leave out “Except as provided by subsection (3),”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 26, page 45, lines 1 to 5.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 26, page 45, leave out lines 1 to 5

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 26, page 45, line 6, after “section 18” insert “made by the Secretary of State”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and my other amendment to Clause 26 at page 45, line 6, would amend Clause 26 to change references to a “statutory instrument” containing regulations made by the Welsh Ministers to a “Welsh statutory instrument” to reflect the Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Act 2025.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 26, page 45, line 6, at end insert —

“(4A) Regulations under section 18 made by the Welsh Ministers are to be made by Welsh statutory instrument.””

Member's explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement for my other amendment to clause 26 at page 45 line 6.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 26, page 45, line 10, leave out “A statutory instrument containing”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and my amendment to clause 26 at page 45, line 11, would update references to the parliamentary procedure for Welsh statutory instruments containing regulations under new section 18 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 to reflect the Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Act 2025.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 26, page 45, line 11, leave out from “18” to end of line 12 and insert “are subject to the Senedd annulment procedure (see section 37E of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 (anaw 4)).”

Member's explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement for my other amendment to clause 26 at page 45 line 10.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 26, page 45, line 13, leave out ““the data protection legislation” and “processing” have” and insert ““processing” has”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 26, page 45, lines 1 to 5.

Clause 27

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 27, page 48, line 7, leave out “Except as provided by subsection (3),”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 27, page 48, lines 14 to 18.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 27, page 48, leave out lines 14 to 18

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 27, page 48, line 22, leave out ““the data protection legislation” and “processing” have” and insert ““processing” has”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 27, page 48, lines 14 to 18.

After Clause 27

BARONESS GREY-THOMPSON

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause—

“Report: barriers to parental support in the care and wellbeing of critically ill children

- (1) Within twelve months of the passing of this Act, the Secretary of State must lay before each House of Parliament a report on the barriers preventing parents of critically ill children aged between 29 days and 16 years from being by their children’s bedsides during periods of hospital care and the impact and potential harms this has on children’s care, wellbeing and family life.
- (2) A report laid under subsection (1) must include assessments of—
 - (a) the adequacy of existing measures in facilitating the care, wellbeing and family life of critically ill children aged between 29 days and 16 years by their parents,
 - (b) the barriers facing parents of such children, including—
 - (i) financial pressures,
 - (ii) pressures arising from the parent’s existing or future employment commitments, and
 - (iii) mental health difficulties,
 - (c) options for providing additional support to the parents of such children during periods of hospital care, and
 - (d) the impact such additional support would be likely to have on such children’s care, wellbeing and family life.
- (3) In preparing the report laid under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must consult—
 - (a) parents of children who have received care in hospital for an extended period,
 - (b) healthcare professionals, and
 - (c) charities and civil society organisations offering support to parents of children receiving care in hospital.
- (4) In preparing a report laid under subsection (1), the Secretary of State must have regard to the UK’s international obligations, including under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted and opened for signature,

ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989.

- (5) A Minister of the Crown must within the period of 28 Commons sitting days beginning with the laying of a report under subsection (1) make arrangements for a debate on the report by the House of Commons.
- (6) A Minister of the Crown must within the period of 28 Lords sitting days beginning with the laying of a report under subsection (1) make arrangements for a debate on the report by the House of Lords.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to report to Parliament on the barriers preventing parents of critically ill children aged between 29 days and 16 years from being by their bedside during periods of hospital care, including financial and workplace pressures, and mental health needs, and the impact this has on the child's care, wellbeing and family life. The amendment would also provide an opportunity for the consideration of that report by each House of Parliament.

BARONESS PENN
LORD STOREY
BARONESS CASS
LORD KNIGHT OF WEYMOUTH

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause—

Guidance on the use of screens and communication with parents and carers in early years settings

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, update the early years foundation stage statutory framework for children aged 0 to 5 in early years settings to include guidance on—
 - (a) the appropriate and safe use of screens and digital technology in early years settings, and
 - (b) effective communication with parents and carers about screen use and digital technology.
- (2) The guidance must draw on advice from education and health professionals, researchers and academics including on the following areas—
 - (a) the benefits, harms or risks of harm associated with the exposure of children of differing ages, including children with special educational needs or disabilities, to screens and other digital devices,
 - (b) the balance between screen-based and non-digital activities for children in early years development and play,
 - (c) age-appropriate limits for screen time for children in early years settings,
 - (d) safeguarding policies for the use of personal devices and other screens in early years settings,
 - (e) the impact of carers' and parents' use of personal devices and screens on child wellbeing and development,
 - (f) the importance of screen-free times and environments, such as during meals, bedtimes, and outdoor play, and

- (g) practical examples and communication strategies for early years practitioners to share with parents and carers to support healthy screen use and promote positive parent–child interaction, including alternatives such as reading together, helping with daily tasks, and engaging with the natural environment.”

LORD NASH
BARONESS CASS
BARONESS BENJAMIN

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Action to prohibit the provision of VPN services to children in the United Kingdom

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must, for the purpose of furthering the protection and wellbeing of children, make regulations which prohibit the provision to UK children of a Relevant VPN Service (the “child VPN prohibition”).
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) –
 - (a) may make provision for the provider of a Relevant VPN Service to apply to any person seeking to access its service in or from the UK age assurance which is highly effective at correctly determining whether or not that person is a child;
 - (b) must apply the child VPN prohibition to the provider of any Relevant VPN Service which is, or is likely to be –
 - (i) offered or marketed to persons in the United Kingdom;
 - (ii) provided to a significant number of persons.
 - (c) must make provision for the monitoring and effective enforcement of the child VPN prohibition.
- (3) OFCOM may produce guidance for providers of Relevant VPN Services to assist them in complying with the child VPN prohibition.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) For the purposes of this section –
 - “child” means a person under the age of 18.
 - “consumer” means a person acting otherwise than in the course of a business.
 - “Relevant VPN Service” means a service of providing, in the course of a business, to a consumer, a virtual private network for accessing the internet.
 - “UK child” means any child who is in the United Kingdom.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to take action to promote and protect children’s wellbeing, and to further support child protective measures in the Online Safety Act, by prohibiting

the provision to children in the United Kingdom of VPN services which can facilitate evasion of OSA age-gating processes.

LORD NASH
BARONESS CASS
BARONESS BENJAMIN

Revised version of the amendment published on 16 October

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Action to promote the wellbeing of children by combating child sexual abuse material (CSAM)

- (1) Within 12 months of the passing of this Act the Secretary of State must, for the purpose of promoting the wellbeing of children, make and bring into force regulations which require manufacturers, importers and distributors of relevant devices to satisfy the CSAM requirement specified in subsection (2).
- (2) The “CSAM requirement” is that any relevant device supplied for use in the UK must have installed tamper-proof system software which is highly effective at preventing the recording, transmitting (by any means, including livestreaming) and viewing of CSAM using that device.
- (3) The duties of manufacturers, importers and distributors to comply with the CSAM requirement specified by regulations under subsection (1) must be subject to enforcement as if the CSAM requirement was a security requirement for the purposes of Part 1 of the Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Act 2022.
- (4) Regulations under subsection (1) must enable the Secretary of State, by further regulations, to expand the definition of ‘relevant devices’ to include other categories of device which may be used to record, transmit or view CSAM.
- (5) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (6) For the purposes of this section –
 - “child sexual abuse material” means images, video recordings or live videos involving child sexual abuse, including –
 - (a) any indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child within the meaning of the Protection of Children Act 1978, and
 - (b) any prohibited image of a child, within the meaning of section 62 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, that is not an excluded image within the meaning of section 63 of that Act;
 - “relevant devices” are smartphones or tablet computers which are either internet-connectable products or network-connectable products for the purposes of section 5 of the Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Act 2022; and

“manufacturer”, “importer”, “distributor”, and “supply” is each as defined in the Product Security and Telecommunications Infrastructure Act 2022.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to take action to promote and protect children's wellbeing by mandating the installation of software which prevents the creation, viewing and sharing of child sexual abuse material on smartphones and tablets which are supplied for use in the UK.

LORD NASH
BARONESS CASS
BARONESS BENJAMIN

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause—

“Action to promote the wellbeing of children in relation to social media

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must, for the purposes of promoting the wellbeing of children—
 - (a) direct the Chief Medical Officers of the United Kingdom (“the UK CMOs”) to prepare and publish advice for parents and carers on the use of social media by children at different ages and developmental stages, and
 - (b) by regulations made by statutory instrument require all regulated user-to-user services to use highly-effective age assurance measures to prevent children under the age of 16 from becoming or being users.
- (2) Any advice published under subsection (1)(a) must have regard to—
 - (a) the paper published on 7 February 2019 entitled “United Kingdom Chief Medical Officers’ commentary on ‘Screen-based activities and children and young people’s mental health and psychosocial wellbeing: a systematic map of reviews’”, and
 - (b) any scientific or other developments since the publication of that paper which appear to the UK CMOs to be relevant.
- (3) Any regulations under subsection (1)(b) must be treated as an enforceable requirement within the meaning of section 131 (and for the purposes of Part 7) of the Online Safety Act 2023.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (1)(b) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) For the purposes of this section—

“the Chief Medical Officers of the United Kingdom” means the Chief Medical Officers for—

 - (a) England,
 - (b) Wales,
 - (c) Scotland, and
 - (d) Northern Ireland;

“regulated user-to-user services” is as defined in the Online Safety Act 2023.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to take action to promote children's wellbeing in relation to their use of social media by commissioning advice from the Chief Medical Officers and introducing regulations to prevent under 16s from accessing social media.

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER
BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“National Care Offer

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 18 months of the passing of this Act, publish a document (the “National Care Offer”) which sets out the minimum standards of information that local authorities must publish under section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 (local offer for care leavers).
- (2) Before publishing or revising the National Care Offer, the Secretary of State must consult with persons that appear to the Secretary of State to represent the interests of care leavers.
- (3) Where a consultation under subsection (2) results in recommendations to be made to the National Care Offer, the Secretary of State must –
 - (a) make the recommended changes or otherwise implement the recommendations, or
 - (b) where not intending to make the recommended changes or otherwise implement the recommendations, publish a response to the consultation outlining the reasons for the Secretary of State's decision and the action that will be taken instead.”

THE LORD BISHOP OF MANCHESTER
LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Care-experience in equality impact assessments

- (1) A public authority undertaking an impact assessment in the exercise of its duties under –
 - (a) section 149 of the Equality Act 2020;
 - (b) the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011;
 - (c) the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012;
 - (d) section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998;
 must include an assessment of the impact on persons who are or have been looked after by a local authority.”

Member's explanatory statement

By including Care Experience in Equality Impact Assessments, this amendment provides a mechanism that public bodies already understand and use, helping to support the extension of

Corporate Parenting responsibilities in a way that is structured, measurable, and embedded in existing decision-making processes.

BARONESS FINLAY OF LLANDAFF
LORD HAMPTON
BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT
BARONESS WALMSLEY

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Response to Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment review in Wales

The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, lay a report before Parliament setting out the UK Government’s response to the three-year post-implementation review report for the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020 and that must include –

- (a) a review of available data and evidence in Wales, and
- (b) a consideration of the impact of abolition in England.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Government to formally respond to the post-implementation report for the abolition of the reasonable punishment defence in Wales 2025 and lay a report before parliament considering the implications for England.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Free milk entitlement: child minder agencies

- (1) The Secretary of State must, using powers under section 175 of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (regulations, orders and schemes), amend regulation 18 of the Welfare Food Regulations 1996 (milk or dried milk for children in day care) to ensure that children provided with daycare by childminders registered with child minder agencies are entitled to free milk.
- (2) The Secretary of State must make regulations under subsection (1) within six months of the day on which this Act is passed.”

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD MESTON
BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Post-removal support for parents to prevent further removals

- (1) Where a child –

- (a) is removed from the care of a parent further to any order made pursuant to –
 - (i) section 31 of the Children Act 1989 (care and supervision orders),
 - (ii) section 22 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (placement orders),
 - (iii) section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (adoption orders),
 - (iv) section 14A of the Children Act 1989 (special guardianship orders), or
- (b) becomes a looked after child further to an arrangement or order made pursuant to –
 - (i) section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (provision of accommodation for children: voluntary arrangements), or
 - (ii) section 25 of the Children Act 1989 (secure accommodation orders),
 the local authority must provide support to the parent, where the parent is identified as being at risk of experiencing further child removals.
- (2) In discharging their duty under subsection (1), the local authority must ensure that the support provided –
 - (a) follows an evidence-informed approach and aims to reduce the risk of further child removals, and
 - (b) is in accordance with any guidance issued by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this section.”

Member's explanatory statement

This clause aims to make sure that local authorities offer evidence-informed support to reduce the risk of parents who have one child removed having future children removed.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Foster carers’ delegated authority for children in their care

- (1) Where a child (“C”) who is looked after by the local authority is placed with a foster parent (“F”) by a local authority, F may make decisions on C’s behalf in relation to the matters set out in subsection (2) where C’s placement plan does not specify an alternative decision maker.
- (2) The matters referred to in subsection (1) are –
 - (a) medical and dental treatment,
 - (b) education,
 - (c) leisure and home life,
 - (d) faith and religious observance,
 - (e) use of social media,
 - (f) personal care, and
 - (g) any other matters which F considers appropriate.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that foster carers have a clear delegated authority to make the day-to-day decisions in a child's life.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD MESTON
BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause –

“Data collection: repeat child removals

- (1) A local authority must collect and retain information on whether a child removed under any of the following provisions was removed from the care of a parent who has previously had another child removed under any of those same provisions –
 - (a) section 31 of the Children Act 1989 (care and supervision orders);
 - (b) section 21 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (placement orders);
 - (c) section 46 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (adoption orders);
 - (d) section 14A of the Children Act 1989 (special guardianship orders);
 - (e) section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (provision of accommodation for children: voluntary arrangements);
 - (f) section 25 of the Children Act 1989 (secure accommodation orders).
- (2) The Secretary of State must make directions under section 83 of the Children Act 1989 or section 7A of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 to require the provision of such information as part of the annual children looked after data return (SSDA903), or any replacement data return.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would create national data on repeat removals of children from their parents' care.

LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

After Clause 27, 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.

LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

After Clause 27, 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.

BARONESS WALMSLEY

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause—

“Automatic enrolment for Healthy Start scheme

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, introduce a scheme to automatically enrol certain individuals for the purposes of the Healthy Start scheme.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, “certain individuals” means people who are eligible for the Healthy Start scheme on the basis of having a child under the age of four.
- (3) The scheme must provide the means for individuals to opt out of enrolment for the Healthy Start scheme.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment provides for the auto-enrollment of certain individuals on to the Healthy Start scheme.

BARONESS COFFEY

After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause—

“Commencement: child support and maintenance

- (1) Section 5 of the Child Support Collection (Domestic Abuse) Act 2023 (extent, commencement and short title) is amended according to subsections (2) and (3).
- (2) In subsection (3)—
 - (a) omit “Subject to subsections (4), (5) and (6)”;
 - (b) at end insert “, but no later than one month after the day on which the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 is passed”.
- (3) Omit subsections (4) and (5).
- (4) In section 62 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 (commencement), after subsection (2), insert—

“(2A) Section 34 comes into force no later than one month after the day on which the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 is passed.””

Member's explanatory statement

This clause will allow the commencement of provisions in the Child Support Collection (Domestic Abuse) Act 2023 which are designed to reduce poverty for children in relationships which involve domestic abuse.

BARONESS PENN

★ After Clause 27, insert the following new Clause—

“Public information campaign on the use of screens and technology for children aged 0-5

- (1) The Secretary of State must, alongside the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, within twelve months of the day on which this Act is passed, establish a public information campaign concerning the impact of digital technology use and screen time on the wellbeing of children aged 0-5.
- (2) The campaign must include, but is not limited to—
 - (a) guidance on the impact on whole child health, both immediate and long term, including—
 - (i) cognitive,
 - (ii) social,
 - (iii) eyesight,
 - (iv) neurodevelopmental,
 - (v) speech, and
 - (vi) language issues;
 - (b) clear recommended boundaries on appropriate screen time limits for children, including times and places that should be screen-free, such as mealtimes and bedtimes;
 - (c) the impact of carers' usage of personal devices and screens on child development;
 - (d) guidance on the importance of screen-free time, outside time and child and parent interaction with examples of alternatives to screen time, such as—
 - (i) bedtime stories,
 - (ii) helping with chores, and
 - (iii) interacting with the environment;
 - (e) guidance that digital "educational" apps are not necessary for healthy development, and the risks of screen usage for young children still apply when using these apps.”

After Clause 29

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ After Clause 29, insert the following new Clause—

“Free school meals etc: information sharing

- (1) Section 110 of the Education Act 2005 (supply of information) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (4), after “local authority” insert “or the appropriate authority of a relevant school in England”

- (3) In subsection (5) –
 - (a) at the end of paragraph (a), omit “or”;
 - (b) at the end of paragraph (b), insert “or
 - (c) to the appropriate authority of a relevant school in England,”.
- (4) After subsection (5) insert –
 - “(5A) Information to which subsection (1) or (2) applies may be supplied to the Secretary of State, or any person providing services to the Secretary of State, for use for the purpose of determining whether relevant financial assistance is payable or expendable in respect of a person in England.
 - (5B) Information to which subsection (2) applies may be supplied to a local authority in England or the appropriate authority of a relevant school in England for use for the purpose mentioned in subsection (5A).
 - (5C) Information received by virtue of subsection (5A) may be supplied –
 - (a) to another person to whom it could have been supplied under that subsection,
 - (b) to a local authority in England, or
 - (c) to the appropriate authority of a relevant school in England,for use for the purpose mentioned in subsection (5A).
 - (5D) A person who (after receiving information by virtue of this section) makes a determination described in subsection (3) or (5A) in respect of a person in England may communicate the determination to –
 - (a) a parent of the person in respect of whom the determination was made,
 - (b) a local authority in England, or
 - (c) the appropriate authority of a relevant school in England.
 - (5E) The communication may include information about the statutory provision or the arrangements under which the person in respect of whom the determination is made is eligible for free school lunches.”
- (5) After subsection (6), insert –
 - “(6A) The references in this section to a local authority in England include references to any person exercising on behalf of such an authority functions relating to eligibility for free school lunches and milk or relating to relevant financial assistance.”
- (6) For subsections (7) and (8) substitute –
 - “(7) For the purposes of this section, determining “eligibility for free school lunches and milk” means determining –
 - (a) whether school lunches or milk must be provided for a person, free of charge and on request, in accordance with –
 - (i) section 512ZB(2) or (3) of the Education Act 1996,

- (ii) regulations under section 342 of that Act (non-maintained special schools), or
 - (iii) Academy arrangements;
- (b) whether school lunches or milk may or must be provided for a person, free of charge, by a local authority in England or the appropriate authority of a relevant school in England in accordance with one or both of the following –
 - (i) the terms of relevant financial assistance;
 - (ii) guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- (8) The reference to school lunch in subsection (7)(b) includes food equivalent to a school lunch provided for a person educated otherwise than at school.
- (8A) In this section –
 - “the appropriate authority” means –
 - (a) in relation to a community, foundation or voluntary school or a community or foundation special school, the governing body;
 - (b) in relation to a pupil referral unit, the local authority which maintains the unit;
 - (c) in relation to any other kind of relevant school, the proprietor;
 - “functions relating to social security” includes functions relating to Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
 - “relevant financial assistance” means financial assistance given under section 14 of the Education Act 2002 –
 - (a) to a local authority in England or the appropriate authority of a relevant school in England, and
 - (b) in connection with child welfare or the provision of education;
 - “relevant school” means –
 - (a) an Academy school,
 - (b) an alternative provision Academy,
 - (c) a community, foundation or voluntary school,
 - (d) a community or foundation special school,
 - (e) a non-maintained special school (within the meaning given by section 337A of the Education Act 1996),
 - (f) a pupil referral unit, or
 - (g) a city technology college or city college for the technology of the arts;
 - “school lunch” has the same meaning as in section 512 of the Education Act 1996.”

Member's explanatory statement

This clause would amend section 110 of the Education Act 2005 to allow for information to be shared in order to identify persons who are eligible for free school meals, or are intended beneficiaries of financial assistance given to local authorities and schools under the Education Act 2002.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ After Clause 29, insert the following new Clause –

“Free school lunches: eligibility

In section 512ZB of the Education Act 1996 (free school lunches and milk) –

- (a) in subsection (2)(a), for “subsection (4) or (4A) (or both)” substitute “subsection (4), (4A) or (4D)”;
- (b) after subsection (4C) insert –

“(4D) A person is within this subsection if –

- (a) they are a registered pupil at a maintained school or pupil referral unit in England,
 - (b) they or their parent is in receipt of universal credit, and
 - (c) they are not within subsection (4);
- and the meaning of “maintained school” given by subsection (4C) applies for the purposes of this subsection.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would provide for free school lunches to be provided (on request) to any pupil at a school maintained by a local authority in England who has a parent (or who is themselves) in receipt of universal credit.

BARONESS WALMSLEY

After Clause 29, insert the following new Clause –

“School food improvement scheme

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must review the national school food standards, including breakfasts, and institute a scheme for monitoring compliance with the standards in England, and supporting schools and school caterers in England to meet those standards (“the national school food improvement scheme”).
- (2) The purpose of the national school food improvement scheme will be to determine whether applicable food standards duties are being met in the provision of all food in schools in England and to assist schools and school caterers in meeting applicable food standards duties in England.
- (3) The national school food improvement scheme may from time to time publish reports highlighting achievements, sharing successful approaches, and offering guidance as it sees fit relating to school food standards in England.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would improve the national school food standards and establish a national school food improvement scheme, to ensure that the breakfast club provision included within this Bill, along with all other school food, follows school food standards, and to support schools to meet those standards.

Clause 30

LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

Clause 30, page 52, leave out lines 33 to 40 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
LORD HAMPTON

Clause 30, page 52, line 34, leave out “have” and insert “buy”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow schools to require more than 3 branded items of school uniform in primary if parents did not have to buy them.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

Clause 30, page 52, line 37, leave out “have” and insert “buy”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow schools to require more than 4 branded items of school uniform in secondary if parents did not have to buy them.

LORD YOUNG OF ACTON
BARONESS SPIELMAN

Clause 30, page 52, line 40, at end insert “unless the branded item of school uniform has been provided or lent to the primary pupil or the secondary pupil free of charge by the appropriate authority or by anyone else.”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment would exclude from the restriction on branded clothing items of school uniform which have been provided or lent to a pupil free of charge.

After Clause 30

LORD MOHAMMED OF TINSLEY

After Clause 30, 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 31

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★

Clause 31, page 55, line 2, at end insert “; or has taken such action during the period of five years ending with the date on which an application is made under subsection (6).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that a parent must obtain local authority consent to withdraw their child from school if the authority has taken action under section 47(8) of the Children Act 1989 at any time during the period of 5 years prior to the application.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

Clause 31, page 55, line 2, 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 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.

LORD CRISP

Clause 31, page 55, line 19, after “school” insert “, and a court confirms their view”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment provides the opportunity for an independent assessment of what is in a child's best interest.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 31, page 55, line 33, at end insert –

- “(8A) Where a local authority refuses consent in respect of a child who meets the criteria for Condition A, the local authority must provide the parents or carers of the relevant child with a statement of reasons for the decision.
- (8B) A statement of reasons provided under subsection (8A) must include an assessment of the costs and benefits to the child.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require a local authority to submit a statement of reasons when they do not agree for a child who meets Condition A to be home educated.

LORD CRISP

Clause 31, page 56, line 28, at end insert –

- “(11A) If a question is referred under subsection (11), the Secretary of State or the Welsh Ministers must –
 - (a) publish their requirements for the evidence to be presented before they will consider such a reference;
 - (b) issue guidance as to how the process of reference works, including worked examples of complaints that would have, and would not have, succeeded;
 - (c) set target times for the consideration of a reference;
 - (d) keep the above information updated.
- (11B) If a question is referred under subsection (11), the Secretary of State or the Welsh Ministers (as the case may be) may delegate their functions under subsection (11) to a tribunal, and may alternatively or additionally provide that cases under this subsection shall fall within the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to clarify how a referral to the Secretary of State or Welsh Ministers under (11)(a) above will be undertaken.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 31, page 57, line 2, at end insert –

“434B Mandatory local authority meetings prior to withdrawal of child from school

- (1) The appropriate national authority must, by regulations made before the end of the relevant period, make a scheme (“a pilot scheme”) to provide –
 - (a) that the parent of a child must attend and participate in a meeting with the local authority responsible for the child if the parent intends –
 - (i) that the child should cease to attend the school at which the child is a registered pupil, and
 - (ii) to withdraw the child from school for the purpose of causing the child to receive education otherwise than at a school,
 - (b) that the local authority must ensure that the following matters are discussed with the parent during the meeting –
 - (i) the duty of parents under section 7 and how the parent plans to meet this duty;
 - (ii) the duties of the local authority, including the support duty under section 436G;
 - (iii) the parent’s reasons for considering that the child should receive education otherwise than at school;
 - (iv) any support needs that the child may have and how those needs could be met;
 - (v) the safeguarding and welfare of the child;
 - (vi) anything else relevant to the decision to withdraw the child from school,
 - (c) that the child must attend the meeting unless exceptional circumstances apply,
 - (d) that a representative of the school at which the child is a registered pupil must attend the meeting if the parent consents to the representative’s attendance,
 - (e) that the proprietor of a school must not allow the deletion from the school’s register of the name of the child unless the proprietor receives notice from the local authority that the meeting has taken place in respect of the child, and
 - (f) that the local authority must record the outcome of the meeting or whether the meeting was refused.

- (2) The “relevant period” is the period of two years beginning with the day on which section 31 of the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 comes fully into force.
- (3) The regulations must also specify –
 - (a) the local authorities in respect of which the pilot scheme will operate, and
 - (b) the period for which the scheme has effect.
- (4) The number of local authorities specified under subsection (3)(a) must not exceed 30 per cent of all local authorities in England or 30 per cent of all local authorities in Wales as the case may be.
- (5) The period specified under subsection (3)(b) must not be less than two years and must not exceed five years.
- (6) The regulations may provide for exemptions from the pilot scheme in respect of descriptions of children as specified in the regulations.
- (7) The regulations may make provision for, or in connection with, any arrangements that the appropriate national authority considers are required to ensure that the pilot scheme can operate.
- (8) The provision that may be made by virtue of subsection (7) includes –
 - (a) provision modifying or amending the pilot scheme for the purpose of ensuring that the scheme can operate in relation to children falling within section 434A;
 - (b) provision modifying or amending section 434A for the purpose of ensuring that the pilot scheme can operate in relation to children falling within that section.
- (9) Subject to subsection (10), the appropriate national authority may by regulations –
 - (a) make provision to end the pilot scheme;
 - (b) provide that the provisions mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (f) of subsection (1) have effect, after the expiry of the pilot scheme, in relation to all local authorities, subject to any exemptions for descriptions of children as specified in the regulations;
 - (c) amend section 434A for the purpose of ensuring that the grant of local authority consent to withdraw a child from school under that section is conditional on the parent of that child attending and participating in a meeting with the local authority responsible for the child, as described in paragraphs (a) to (f) of subsection (1), subject to any exemptions for descriptions of children as specified in the regulations;
 - (d) make provision for, or in connection with, any arrangements that the appropriate national authority considers are required to ensure that any provision made under paragraphs (a) to (c) can operate.
- (10) Regulations under subsection (9) may be made only after the pilot scheme has operated for a period of no less than 2 years.

- (11) Before making any regulations under this section, the appropriate national authority must consult such persons as the appropriate national authority considers appropriate.
- (12) In this section “appropriate national authority” means —
 - (a) in relation to England, the Secretary of State;
 - (b) in relation to Wales, the Welsh Ministers.
- (13) If a draft of a statutory instrument containing regulations made by the Secretary of State under this section would, apart from this subsection, be treated for the purposes of the standing orders of either House of Parliament as a hybrid instrument, it is to proceed in that House as if it were not such an instrument.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow regulations to make pilot schemes requiring parents who wish to withdraw their children from school to attend mandatory meetings with the local authority. Regulations may also extend the provisions to all local authorities, following the end of the pilot scheme and a consultation.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 31, page 57, line 2, at end insert —

“(2) In section 569(2A) of the Education Act 1996, after “section” insert “434B”. ”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my other amendment of clause 31, page 57, line 2 and will ensure that regulations made under the provision inserted by that amendment will be subject to the affirmative procedure.

Clause 32

BARONESS BENJAMIN

Clause 32, page 57, line 11, leave out “C” and insert “D”

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 32, page 57, line 23, leave out from beginning to “, or” in line 24 and insert “a child receiving full-time education at a relevant school would normally be expected to attend”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would clarify the intention that section 436B(5)(b)(ii) of the Education Act 1996, as inserted by clause 32, refers to a comparator child in full-time education.

BARONESS BENJAMIN

Clause 32, page 57, line 28, at end insert –

- “(5A) Where a child is not registered by a local authority because the child is taking part in performances or activities set out in section 37(1) to (3) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 (restriction on persons under 16 taking part in public performances, etc.) and section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (restrictions on persons under eighteen going abroad for the purpose of performing for profit), the local authority has a duty to ensure that the child is registered as required by the Children (Performances and Activities) (England) (Wales) Regulations 2014.”

BARONESS BENJAMIN

Clause 32, page 57, line 28, at end insert –

- “(5A) Condition D is that the child is not taking part in any performances or activities set out in section 37(1) to (3) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1963 (restriction on persons under 16 taking part in public performances etc.) and section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (restrictions on persons under eighteen going abroad for the purpose of performing for profit).”

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 32, page 58, line 12, at end insert –

- “(8) Before the end of the period of 15 days beginning with the day on which the local authority registers a child under this section, the local authority –
- (a) must consider where the child lives, and
 - (b) may request the child's parent to allow the local authority to visit the child inside any of the homes in which the child lives.
- (9) If a request under subsection (8)(b) is refused by the person to whom it is made, the local authority must consider that to be a relevant factor in determining whether to serve a preliminary notice under section 436H.
- (10) Before the end of the period of 15 days beginning with the day on which the local authority includes in the register the information mentioned in section 436C(1)(e) in respect of a child, the local authority must consider the settings where the child is being educated that the local authority knows about.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would provide a new duty for local authorities to consider the child's home and education settings, and a power to request a home visit, soon after registration under section 436B (as inserted by clause 32).

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 32, page 58, line 13, leave out from beginning to end of line 11 on page 60 and insert —

“436C Content of and additional information in registers

- (1) A register under section 436B must contain, in respect of each child registered —
 - (a) the child's name, date of birth and home address,
 - (b) the name and home address of the parent or parents who are taking responsibility for the education of the child, and
 - (c) a brief description, in a form prescribed by regulations, of the primary type of education received by the child.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1)(c) may only require information that is necessary for the purposes of —
 - (a) enabling a local authority to identify children in its area who may not be receiving a suitable education, or
 - (b) safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child.
- (3) Nothing in this section prevents a local authority from requesting further information from a parent in a particular case where the authority has reasonable cause to believe that a child may not be receiving a suitable education or that the child's welfare may be at risk.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to replace much of section 436C with a narrower provision that limits the core content of local authority registers to information needed to identify the child, contact the responsible parent and understand the child's main educational setting, allowing local authorities to seek further information in individual cases where this is reasonably considered strictly necessary to assess the suitability of education or to safeguard the child. It also removes the ability of the Secretary of State or Welsh Ministers to require additional information to be included in the register of children not in school.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 58, line 16, at end insert “, and if the child has lived at their current address for less than 12 months, their previous address”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the register also contains the previous address of the child where they have lived at their current address for less than 12 months.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 58, line 16, at end insert —
- “(aa) any additional address if the child lives at more than one address;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment will ensure that the register will include any additional address at which the child lives.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 58, leave out lines 20 and 21 and insert —

“(d) an estimate of the overall total amount of time that the child spends receiving education from parents of the child;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require a parent to provide an estimate of the overall amount of time, rather than the actual amount of time, that the child spends receiving education from their parents, for the purposes of the register of children not in school.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 58, line 21, at end insert —

“(da) an estimate of the overall total amount of time that the child spends receiving education from persons other than parents of the child;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require a parent to provide an estimate of the overall amount of time, rather than the actual amount of time, that the child spends receiving education from persons other than their parents, for the purposes of the register of children not in school.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 58, leave out lines 22 to 27 and insert —

“(e) if a particular provider other than the child’s parent is providing education to the child for more than the prescribed amount of time —

- (i) the name and address of the provider;
- (ii) a description of the type of provider that it is;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and my amendment of clause 32 at page 60, line 33 would provide that the requirement to provide detailed information about education providers other than a parent will only apply if a provider is providing education that exceeds an amount of time specified in regulations.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 58, line 32, at beginning insert “an estimate of”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require a parent to provide an estimate of the total amount of time, rather than the actual amount of time, that the child spends receiving education from a provider, for the purposes of the register of children not in school.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 58, line 33, after “and” insert “an estimate of”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require a parent to provide an estimate of the amount of time, rather than the actual amount of time, that the child spends receiving education from a provider without parental supervision, for the purposes of the register of children not in school.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 59, line 41, leave out “within the further education sector”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the register of children not in school would be required to contain information about all schools or institutions that a child attends or has attended in the past, including those which are institutions not in the further education sector.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 60, line 3, at end insert —

“(la) whether the local authority exercised any of its functions under section 436B(8), (9) or (10), 436H(7A), (7B) or 436I(3) in relation to the child and the outcomes of any consideration of home and education settings or home visits conducted under those provisions;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow the outcomes of any home visits or consideration of the child's home and education settings to be prescribed as information that may be included in the register of children not in school.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 60, line 3, at end insert —

“(la) whether the child is a young carer within the meaning of section 17ZA(3) of the Children Act 1989, as qualified by section 17ZB(3) of that Act;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would amend the list of information that the register of children not in school must contain if prescribed in regulations under section 436C(2) of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by clause 32) to include whether the child is a young carer.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 60, leave out lines 21 and 22 and insert —

“(e) how amounts of time and estimates of amounts of time are to be calculated and recorded for the purposes of subsection (1)(d), (da) and (e)(iv);”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my other amendments of clause 32 at page 58, lines 20, 21, 32 and 33 and would ensure that regulations made under section 436C(4) of the Education Act 1996 (inserted by clause 32) can also make provision about how time estimates are to be calculated.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 60, line 33, at end insert —

“(6) In subsection (1)(e), “prescribed amount of time” means an amount of time prescribed —

- (a) by reference to a number of hours in, or a proportion of, a week or other period;
- (b) by reference to a proportion of the time a child spends receiving education;
- (c) in any other way.”

Member's explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement to my amendment of clause 32 at page 58, lines 22 to 27.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 61, line 5, after “436C(1)” insert “(a) to (c)”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my other amendment of clause 32 at page 61, line 5 and would ensure that section 436D(2)(b) only applies to information required to be included in the register by section 436C(1)(a) to (c).

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 61, line 5, at end insert —

“(ba) inform the authority, on request, if there have been any changes, of which the parent is aware, to any of the information mentioned in

section 436C(1)(d), (da) or (e) since the information was last provided to the authority, and provide the authority with information about those changes, or confirm that there have been no changes, and”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the parent of a registered child to inform the local authority about changes to the child's education when requested to do so by the local authority, rather than requiring parents to inform the authority every time there is a change.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 61, line 7, at end insert “as a result of no longer meeting Condition A (see subsection (3) of that section) or Condition C (see subsection (5) of that section)”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that a parent of a registered child is not obliged to inform the local authority when the child is no longer of compulsory school age.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 61, line 7, at end insert –
- “(2A) A local authority –
- (a) must make a request mentioned in subsection (2)(ba) in relation to each child registered by the local authority under section 436B at least once a year, but
 - (b) may not make such a request more frequently than once every three months.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that a local authority must request a parent to provide information about changes to information about education at least once a year, but not more frequently than once every 3 months.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 61, line 18, at end insert –
- “(ca) in the case of the duty in subsection (2)(ba), such period of not less than 15 days as the local authority specify in the request;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would provide the relevant period of time for complying with the new duty introduced by my second amendment of clause 32 at page 61, line 5.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 61, line 24, leave out “any one or more of”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment of clause 32 at page 61, line 39.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 61, leave out line 39 and insert—

- “(e) any combination of the arrangements mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d);
- (f) any one or more of the arrangements mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) and attendance at a relevant school.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would clarify that attendance at a relevant school is only relevant for section 436D(5) (inserted by clause 32) where it is combined with arrangements in paragraphs (a) to (d) of that subsection.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 62, line 21, leave out from “education” to “at” in line 22 and insert “as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) to any child living in England or Wales (whether or not that child lives in the authority’s area) or has provided such education”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would clarify that a local authority may ask an education provider to confirm whether they are providing out-of-school education for children whether or not those children live in the authority’s area.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 62, line 25, after first “child” insert “living in England or Wales”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would clarify that the duty of the education provider to provide certain information to a local authority under section 436E of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by clause 32) applies in relation to children living in England and Wales.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 64, line 36, at end insert—

- “(c) information about access to examinations for the General Certificate of Secondary Education.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would add information about access to GCSE exams to the list of examples of matters about which a local authority can provide information, if such information is requested by the parent of a child registered under section 436B (as inserted by clause 32).

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 32, page 64, line 36, at end insert –

- “(2A) A local authority in England must offer parents of children registered by the authority under section 436B the opportunity to attend a forum to discuss the operation of sections 436B to 436P.
- (2B) The offer must be made twice per year and if it is accepted by at least one person to whom it is made, the local authority must arrange for the forum to take place.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would place a duty on local authorities in England to offer parents of registered children the opportunity to attend a forum to discuss the requirements of the provisions about children not in school inserted into the Education Act 1996 by clauses 32 and 33.

LORD CRISP

Clause 32, page 64, line 36, at end insert –

- “(2A) A local authority must, in general and at the outset of any relationship with an individual family, act supportively towards home educating families.
- (2B) A local authority must ensure that there are arrangements within its area to enable home educated children to take English and Maths GCSE examinations upon payment of the requisite exam board fee only.
- (2C) The Secretary of State must support, through negotiations with the relevant national bodies, the ability of local authorities to put arrangements under subsection (2B) in place at a reasonable cost.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to address the difficulty many home educated children have in accessing public exams in their area and doing so at a reasonable cost.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 32, page 64, line 37, leave out “duty in subsection (1) does not apply” and insert “duties in subsections (1), (2A) and (2B) do not apply in relation to a child”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my second amendment of clause 32 at page 64, line 36 and would set out the circumstances in which the new duties would not apply.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 32, page 65, line 8, leave out subsection (3) and insert –

- “(3) In section 569(2A) –

- (a) after “section” insert “436B(6), 436C(1)(e), 436C(2), 436C(4), 436E(1)(a), 436E(7), 436E(9), 436F(1), 436F(2),”;
- (b) after “550ZC(7)” insert “, or under paragraph 5 of Schedule 31A.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would provide that all regulations made by the Secretary of State under the listed provisions of the Education Act 1996 as inserted by clause 32 relating to the registration of children not in school will be subject to the affirmative procedure.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 65, line 25, leave out subsection (4)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove the changes made by clause 32(4), which substitutes references to the “National Assembly for Wales” for “Senedd Cymru” in section 569 of the Education Act 1996. These changes are not needed because of my amendment of clause 32 at page 65, line 27.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 32, page 65, line 27, leave out subsection (5) and insert –

“(5) In section 569(2B) –

- (a) omit “A statutory instrument containing”;
- (b) after “397” insert “, 436I(6)”;
- (c) for the words after “the Welsh Ministers” substitute “are subject to the Senedd annulment procedure (see section 37E of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 (anaw 4)).”

(5A) In section 569(2BA) –

- (a) omit the words from the beginning to “provision”;
- (b) for the words after “2018” substitute “are subject to the Senedd approval procedure (see section 37C of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019).”

(5B) In section 569(2BB) –

- (a) omit the words from the beginning to “provision”;
- (b) after “section” insert “436B(6), 436C(1)(e), 436C(2), 436C(4), 436E(1)(a), 436E(7), 436E(9), 436F(1), 436F(2) or”;
- (c) after “579(3C)” insert “, or under paragraph 5 of Schedule 31A”;
- (d) for the words after “579(3C)” substitute “are subject to the Senedd approval procedure (see section 37C of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would provide that regulations made by the Welsh Ministers under the listed provisions of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by clauses 32 and 33) would be subject to the Senedd approval procedure (see section 37C of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 (anaw 4)).

Clause 33

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 33, page 68, line 35, at end insert “; or has taken such action during the period of 5 years ending with the date on which a preliminary notice is to be served under subsection (1).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would allow a local authority to serve a preliminary notice for a school attendance order where the local authority has taken action under section 47(8) of the Children Act 1989 during the period of 5 years prior to the date on which the notice is to be served.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 33, page 69, line 9, after “436D(2)” insert “(a), (b) or (ba)”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would mean that a preliminary notice for a school attendance order cannot be served by a local authority where a parent has failed to tell the authority that their child is no longer eligible for registration by that authority.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 33, page 69, line 13, at end insert —
- “(7A) For the purpose of determining whether a preliminary notice must or may be served under this section in respect of a child, the local authority —
- (a) must consider the settings where the child is being educated that the local authority knows about and where the child lives, and
 - (b) may request the child’s parent on whom the preliminary notice would be served to allow the local authority to visit the child inside any of the homes in which the child lives.
- (7B) If a request under subsection (7A)(b) is refused by the person to whom it is made, the local authority must consider that to be a relevant factor in determining whether to serve a preliminary notice.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would add to section 436H (inserted by clause 33) provision equivalent to section 436I(3)(inserted by clause 33) to enable the local authority to consider the child’s home and education settings and request a home visit to help determine whether to serve a preliminary notice under section 436H.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 33, page 70, leave out lines 5 and 6 and insert —
- “(b) section 436H(5)(a) no longer applies in respect of the child,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment of clause 33, page 68, line 35 and would ensure that section 436H(5)(a) as amended by that amendment is taken into account.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 33, page 70, line 10, after “that Act” insert “, or which has been taken during the period of 5 years ending with the date that the order would be made,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would also cover action taken by the local authority under section 47(8) of the Children Act 1989 during the period of 5 years prior to the date on which the school attendance order would be made.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 33, page 70, line 14, leave out from “consider” to end of line 15 and insert “the settings where the child is being educated that the local authority knows about and where the child lives,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment of clause 32 at page 58, lines 22 to 27 following which not all education settings will be captured on the register so local authorities should not be obliged to consider all settings when making a decision to serve a school attendance order.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 33, page 77, leave out lines 23 and 24 and insert —
 “(b) section 436H(5)(a) no longer applies in respect of the child,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment of clause 33, page 68, line 35 and would ensure that section 436H(5)(a) as amended by that amendment is taken into account.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 33, page 77, line 28, after “that Act” insert “, or which has been taken during the period of 5 years ending with the date that the order was made,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would also cover action taken by the local authority under section 47(8) of the Children Act 1989 during the period of 5 years prior to the date on which the school attendance order was made.

Clause 34

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 34, page 81, line 32, leave out “Except as provided by subsection (3),”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 34, page 81, line 39.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 34, page 81, line 39, leave out from beginning to end of line 5 on page 82

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

Clause 35

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 35, page 82, line 10, leave out “under sections” and insert “under or by virtue of sections 434A, 434B and”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that local authorities have regard to guidance when exercising functions relating to the withdrawal of children from school.

Clause 40

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 40, page 99, line 8, leave out from “address” to end of line 11 and insert “of buildings that the institution makes available for student use;”;

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and my amendment to clause 40 at page 99, line 12, would require an application to register an independent educational institution to include just the address and not the description of buildings where students are routinely provided with education, meals or accommodation.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 40, page 99, line 12, at end insert —
“(3ZA) For the purposes of subsection (3)(ea) —
(a) “building” means any —

- (i) building,
 - (ii) part of a building,
 - (iii) permanent outdoor structure, or
 - (iv) part of a permanent outdoor structure,
- which is wholly or mainly enclosed;
- (b) a building is made available “for student use” by an institution if students at the institution are routinely present in the building –
 - (i) to be provided with meals or accommodation by the institution, or
 - (ii) to be provided with education by the institution and, while the education is being provided, the building is controlled by the institution.”

Member's explanatory statement

See the explanatory statement to my amendment to clause 40 at page 99, line 8.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 40, page 99, line 19, leave out from “(5)(c)” to end of line 28 and insert “only requires the Secretary of State to include in the register the address of a building if it is different from the registered address of the institution.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would simplify the provision made by clause 40(3).

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 40, page 99, line 35, after “of” insert “registered”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would clarify that a material change includes a change to the registered address of an institution.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 40, page 100, line 1, leave out from “buildings” to end of line 2 and insert “made available for student use by the institution (within the meaning given by section 98(3ZA));”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the proprietor of an independent educational institution to seek approval to change the buildings where students are routinely provided with education, meals or accommodation by the institution.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 40, page 100, line 5, leave out “it makes special educational provision” and insert “the institution is specially organised to make special educational provision”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would align the text to be inserted into section 101 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 with existing text in sections 98 and 101 of that Act.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 40, page 100, leave out lines 11 to 27 and insert—

- “(2B) Subsection (2)(g) does not include a change where—
- (a) the change is a building ceasing to be made available for student use,
 - (b) the change is an excluded building being made available for student use, or
 - (c) the change is reasonably expected by the proprietor to persist for a period of less than six months beginning with the day on which the change is made.
- (2C) A building is an “excluded building” if—
- (a) it is at the registered address of an independent educational institution, or
 - (b) it is at a further address included in the register—
 - (i) in accordance with section 99(5)(c), or
 - (ii) following approval under this Chapter of a material change falling within subsection (2)(g).
- (2D) A change within subsection (2B)(c) becomes a material change if, at the beginning of the first day after the end of the six month period mentioned in that provision, it persists.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would limit the requirement imposed by my amendment to clause 40 at page 100, line 1, by excluding certain kinds of changes and buildings from scope.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 40, page 102, line 5, at end insert—

- “(10A) In section 138 (interpretation), after subsection (2) insert—
- “(3) A reference in this Chapter to the registered address of an independent educational institution—
- (a) is a reference to the address included in the register in accordance with section 99(5)(a) or, where a change of that address is approved under this Chapter (see section 101(2)(b)), the new address;
 - (b) is not a reference to any further addresses related to the institution and included in the register—
 - (i) in accordance with section 99(5)(c), or

- (ii) following approval under this Chapter of a material change falling within section 101(2)(g).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would clarify the meaning of “registered address of an independent educational institution” in the Education and Skills Act 2008 to reflect that various addresses used by an institution may be recorded in the register.

Clause 43

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 43, page 107, line 27, at end insert “, other than such of the following as is relevant to the investigation of a relevant offence –

- “(a) material that is excluded material within the meaning of section 11(1)(a) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984;
- (b) material that is special procedure material within the meaning of section 14(2) of that Act.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would grant the Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills power to seize, inspect or take copies of certain documents for the purpose of investigating offences under the Education and Skills Act 2008.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 43, page 109, line 8, leave out “subsection (2)” and insert “subsection (3) (inserted by section 40(10A))”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 40 at page 102, line 5.

Clause 45

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 45, page 110, line 33, leave out “Except as provided by subsection (3),”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 45, page 111, lines 3 to 8.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 45, page 111, leave out lines 3 to 8

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 45, page 111, line 22, leave out “Except as provided by subsection (3),”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on my amendment to clause 45, page 111, lines 29 to 34.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

- ★ Clause 45, page 111, leave out lines 29 to 34

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the protection provided by the new general data protection override in section 183A of the Data Protection Act 2018, inserted by section 106(2) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and which came into force on 20 August 2025.

Clause 46

BARONESS BARRAN
BARONESS BLOWER

Clause 46, page 112, line 1, leave out sub-paragraph (i)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove the ability of the TRA to investigate complaints before a teacher began their teaching career.

LORD KNIGHT OF WEYMOUTH

Clause 46, page 112, line 1, before “or” insert “qualified to teach in maintained schools in England”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is intended to ensure that those teachers who have qualified overseas to teach in maintained schools in England but have never worked in English schools are covered by these safeguarding arrangements.

Clause 50

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 50, page 117, leave out lines 5 to 22 and insert—

- “(1) If the Secretary of State is satisfied that the proprietor of an Academy has breached a duty imposed by Academy arrangements, the Secretary of State may give the proprietor such directions as the Secretary of State considers appropriate to secure the proper performance of the duty.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment limits the Secretary of State's power to direct the proprietor of an Academy to cases where the Secretary of State is satisfied that the proprietor has already breached a duty imposed by Academy arrangements.

After Clause 50

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ After Clause 50, insert the following new Clause—

“Inspection of Academy proprietors

- (1) In Part 8 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (Inspections), after Chapter 2, insert—

“CHAPTER 2A**INSPECTION OF ACADEMY PROPRIETORS***Inspection***122A Duty to inspect Academy proprietors at specified intervals**

- (1) The Chief Inspector must—
- (a) conduct inspections of every Academy proprietor at such intervals as may be specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State, and
 - (b) prepare a written report on completion of each inspection.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that subsection (1) does not apply in relation to specified categories of Academy proprietor in specified circumstances.
- (3) An Academy proprietor in relation to which subsection (1) does not apply by virtue of regulations under subsection (2) is an “exempt proprietor”.
- (4) When conducting an inspection under this section, the Chief Inspector must have regard to any views about the matters listed in section 122B(2) which are expressed to the Chief Inspector by—

- (a) such persons as may be specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State;
 - (b) such other persons as the Chief Inspector considers appropriate.
- (5) Subsection (1) has effect subject to subsection 122E.
- (6) An inspection which is required under this section must not extend to –
 - (a) denominational education provided at an Academy which has been designated as having a religious character, or which is to be treated as having been so designated by virtue of section 6(8) of the Academies Act 2010, or
 - (b) the content of collective worship at such an Academy.

122B Report of section 122A inspection

- (1) It is the general duty of the Chief Inspector, when conducting an inspection under section 122A, to report on the quality and effectiveness of the Academy proprietor's leadership, management and governance in connection with its role as an Academy proprietor.
- (2) The Chief Inspector's report must (in particular) cover –
 - (a) the quality and effectiveness of any activities undertaken by the Academy proprietor to secure the provision of a quality education to registered pupils and students of its Academies;
 - (b) the quality and effectiveness of the Academy proprietor's governance and executive leadership;
 - (c) the quality and effectiveness of any activities undertaken by the Academy proprietor to promote the wellbeing of children and young persons;
 - (d) the quality and effectiveness of any activities undertaken by the Academy proprietor to secure improvements in its Academies;
 - (e) the quality and effectiveness of the Academy proprietor's management of its resources;
 - (f) such other matters as may be specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (3) The Chief Inspector must send a copy of a report under section 122A(1)(b) to –
 - (a) the Academy proprietor, and
 - (b) the Secretary of State.
- (4) The Academy proprietor must –
 - (a) make a copy of any report sent to it under subsection (3) available for inspection by members of the public,
 - (b) provide a copy of the report, free of charge, upon request, and
 - (c) take such steps as are reasonably practicable to secure that every registered parent of a pupil at an Academy school or alternative provision Academy of which the Academy proprietor is the

proprietor receives a copy of the report within five working days following receipt of the report by the Academy proprietor.

- (5) The Chief Inspector may send a copy of the report to such other persons as the Chief Inspector considers appropriate.
- (6) The Chief Inspector may arrange for the report to be published in such manner as the Chief Inspector considers appropriate.
- (7) In this section —
 - “child” means a person aged under 18, and references to “children” are to be read accordingly;
 - “wellbeing”, in relation to a child or young person, means their wellbeing so far as relating to the matters mentioned in section 10(2) of the Children Act 2004;
 - “working day” means a day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971;
 - “young person” means any of the persons mentioned in section 10(9) of the Children Act 2004.

122C Other inspections

- (1) The Chief Inspector must inspect and report on any Academy proprietor, or category of Academy proprietor, in connection with its role as an Academy proprietor, if requested to do so by the Secretary of State.
- (2) The Chief Inspector may inspect and report on any Academy proprietor, in connection with its role as an Academy proprietor, in circumstances where there is no requirement to do so under any other provision of this Chapter.
- (3) If the Chief Inspector carries out an inspection under subsection (2) in response to a request from the Academy proprietor, the Chief Inspector may charge the Academy proprietor for the cost of the inspection.
- (4) An inspection which is conducted under this section must not extend to —
 - (a) denominational education provided at an Academy which has been designated as having a religious character, or which is to be treated as having been so designated by virtue of section 6(8) of the Academies Act 2010, or
 - (b) the content of collective worship at such an Academy.
- (5) The Chief Inspector may arrange for a report under this section to be published in such manner as the Chief Inspector considers appropriate.

122D Duty to notify certain persons of inspection

- (1) Before conducting an inspection under section 122A the Chief Inspector must notify —
 - (a) the Academy proprietor, and

- (b) any relevant religious body.
- (2) If the Academy proprietor is notified by the Chief Inspector that the Chief Inspector is proposing to inspect the Academy proprietor under section 122A, the Academy proprietor must take such steps as are reasonably practicable to notify the following persons of the time when the inspection is to take place –
 - (a) the registered parents of registered pupils at any Academy school or alternative provision Academy of which the Academy proprietor is the proprietor;
 - (b) the members of the Academy proprietor (if any).
- (3) If the Academy proprietor is notified by the Chief Inspector that the Chief Inspector is electing to treat, or is required by the Secretary of State to treat, an inspection under section 122C as if it were an inspection under section 122A as a result of the exercise of a power under section 122E, the Academy proprietor must take such steps as are reasonably practicable to notify the following persons that the inspection is being so treated, and of the time when the inspection is to take place –
 - (a) the registered parents of registered pupils at any Academy school or alternative provision Academy of which the Academy proprietor is the proprietor;
 - (b) the members of the Academy proprietor (if any);
 - (c) any relevant religious body.
- (4) Any notification given under subsection (2)(a) or (3)(a) must include a statement, in a form approved by the Chief Inspector, inviting the registered parents of registered pupils to inform the Chief Inspector of their views on matters relating to –
 - (a) the Academy at which their child is a registered pupil;
 - (b) the Academy proprietor.

122E Power or duty to treat other inspection as section 122A inspection

- (1) The Chief Inspector may elect for an inspection under section 122C of an Academy proprietor to which section 122A applies to be treated as if it were an inspection under section 122A for the purposes of section 122A(1), section 122B(3) to (6) and section 122H.
- (2) In the case of an inspection of an exempt proprietor under section 122C, the Chief Inspector may elect to treat the inspection as if it were an inspection under section 122A for the purposes of section 122A(4) and sections 122B and 122H.
- (3) The Secretary of State may require the Chief Inspector to treat an inspection under section 122C(1) of an Academy proprietor to which section 122A applies as if it were an inspection under section 122A for the purposes of section 122A(1) and (4) and sections 122B and 122H.

- (4) In the case of an inspection of an exempt proprietor under section 122C(1), the Secretary of State may require the Chief Inspector to treat the inspection as if it were an inspection under section 122A for the purposes of section 122A(4) and sections 122B and 122H.
- (5) In this section, “exempt proprietor” has the meaning given by section 122A(3).

122F Framework for inspections under this Chapter

- (1) The Chief Inspector must devise –
 - (a) a common set of principles applicable to all inspections conducted under this Chapter, or
 - (b) two or more common sets of principles each of which is applicable to a particular description of such inspections.
- (2) A set of principles devised under subsection (1)(a) or (b) is referred to in this section as a “framework”.
- (3) If the Chief Inspector devises two or more frameworks under subsection (1)(b), the Chief Inspector must ensure that, taken together, they cover all inspections conducted under this Chapter.
- (4) A framework must cover such matters as may be specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (5) The Chief Inspector must publish a framework in such manner as the Chief Inspector considers appropriate.
- (6) The Chief Inspector may at any time revise a framework.
- (7) The Chief Inspector must publish a revised framework in such manner as the Chief Inspector considers appropriate.
- (8) In devising or revising a framework, the Chief Inspector must have regard to guidance given from time to time by the Secretary of State.

Powers of entry etc.

122G Powers of entry etc. for purposes of inspection

- (1) This section applies to an inspection conducted by the Chief Inspector under this Chapter.
- (2) The Chief Inspector may, at any reasonable time, enter –
 - (a) any premises of the Academy proprietor;
 - (b) the premises of any Academy of which the Academy proprietor is the proprietor;
 - (c) any other premises on which, by virtue of arrangements made by the Academy proprietor, any pupils or students who are registered at an Academy within paragraph (b) are receiving part of their education from any person (“the provider”);

- (d) any premises of the provider used in connection with the provision by the provider of that education.
- (3) The Chief Inspector may, at any reasonable time, inspect, take copies of, or take away such of the following as the Chief Inspector considers relevant to the discharge of the Chief Inspector's functions under this Chapter –
 - (a) any documents or records kept by the Academy proprietor;
 - (b) any documents or records kept by an Academy of which the Academy proprietor is the proprietor;
 - (c) any documents or records kept by the provider relating to the provision of education by virtue of arrangements made by the Academy proprietor.
- (4) The power in subsection (3) includes –
 - (a) power to require any person holding or accountable for any such documents or records to produce them, and
 - (b) in relation to any such documents or records kept by means of a computer, power to require them to be produced in a form in which they are legible and can be taken away.
- (5) In connection with inspecting any such documents or records the Chief Inspector –
 - (a) may obtain access to, and inspect and check the operation of, any computer and associated apparatus or material which the Chief Inspector considers is or has been in use in connection with the documents or records, and
 - (b) may require a person within subsection (6) to afford the Chief Inspector such reasonable assistance as the Chief Inspector requires for that purpose.
- (6) A person is within this subsection if that person is –
 - (a) the person by whom or on whose behalf the computer is or has been used, or
 - (b) a person having charge of, or otherwise concerned with the operation of, the computer, apparatus or material.
- (7) A person is guilty of an offence if that person intentionally obstructs the Chief Inspector in the exercise of any function conferred by this Chapter.
- (8) A person who commits an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

Academy proprietors not performing to acceptable standard

122H Academy proprietors not performing to acceptable standard

- (1) Subsections (2) to (4) apply if, on completion of an inspection under section 122A, the Chief Inspector is of the opinion that –

- (a) the persons responsible for leading, managing and governing the Academy proprietor are failing to lead, manage or govern the Academy proprietor to an acceptable standard, or
 - (b) the Academy proprietor is failing to lead, manage or govern an Academy of which it is the proprietor to an acceptable standard.
- (2) The Chief Inspector must –
 - (a) send a draft of the report of the inspection to the Academy proprietor, and
 - (b) consider any comments on the draft that are made by the Academy proprietor within such period as may be specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- (3) Where, after complying with subsection (2), the Chief Inspector is of the opinion that the case falls within paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (1), the Chief Inspector must –
 - (a) without delay, notify the following persons in writing of that opinion –
 - (i) the Secretary of State,
 - (ii) the Academy proprietor, and
 - (b) state that opinion in the report of the inspection.
- (4) A notification made under subsection (3)(a) must also record –
 - (a) in a case within subsection (1)(a), whether the Chief Inspector is of the opinion that the persons responsible for leading, managing and governing the Academy proprietor are demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement in the Academy proprietor;
 - (b) in a case within subsection (1)(b), whether the Chief Inspector is of the opinion that the Academy proprietor is demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement in the Academy.

Supplementary

122I Regulations under Chapter 2A

- (1) Regulations under this Chapter may –
 - (a) make different provision for different purposes;
 - (b) make consequential provision.
- (2) A statutory instrument containing provision made under any of the following provisions of this Chapter (whether alone or with other provision) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament –
 - (a) section 122A(2);
 - (b) section 122B(2)(f);
 - (c) section 122F(4).

- (3) A statutory instrument containing regulations made under any other provision of this Chapter is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

122J Interpretation of Chapter 2A

- (1) In this Chapter –

“Academy” means an educational institution to which Academy arrangements relate;

“Academy arrangements” has the meaning given by section 1 of the Academies Act 2010;

“Academy proprietor” is a person who, in pursuance of Academy arrangements, is the proprietor of an Academy;

“Academy school” has the meaning given by section 1A of the Academies Act 2010;

“alternative provision Academy” has the meaning given by section 1C of that Act;

“denominational education”, in relation to an Academy, means religious education which –

- (a) is provided in accordance with –

(i) any provisions of the trust deed affecting the Academy which relate to the teaching and learning of religious education, or

(ii) the tenets of the religion or religious denomination in relation to which the Academy is designated, and

- (b) is not required by Academy arrangements to be given in accordance with the requirements for agreed syllabuses in section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996;

“parent” has the meaning given by section 576 of that Act;

“registered”, in relation to the parents of pupils at an Academy school or alternative provision Academy, means shown in the register kept under section 434 of that Act;

“registered pupil”, in relation to an Academy school or alternative provision Academy, means a person registered as a pupil in that register;

“relevant religious body”, in relation to an Academy, means –

- (a) in the case of a Church of England Academy or a Roman Catholic Church Academy, the appropriate diocesan authority,

- (b) in any other case, such body or person as is specified in the Academy arrangements relating to the Academy as representing the religion or religious denomination in relation to which the Academy is designated, and

in the case of an Academy designated in relation to more than one religion or religious denomination, references to “the relevant religious body” are to be read as references to all of the relevant religious bodies applicable to the Academy;

“trust deed”, in relation to an Academy, includes any instrument (other than the articles or memorandum of association) regulating the constitution of the Academy proprietor or the maintenance, management or conduct of the Academy.

(2) In subsection (1) —

- (a) “Church of England Academy” means an Academy in the Province of Canterbury or York in relation to which the religion or religious denomination specified in the order designating the Academy as having a religious character is “Church of England” and “appropriate diocesan authority”, in relation to such an Academy, means the Diocesan Board of Education for the diocese of the Church of England in which the school is situated, and
- (b) “Roman Catholic Church Academy” means an Academy in relation to which the religion or religious denomination specified in the order designating the Academy as having a religious character is “Roman Catholic” and “appropriate diocesan authority”, in relation to such an Academy, means the bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese in which the Academy is situated.

(3) For the purposes of this Chapter, an Academy has been “designated as having a religious character” if it has been so designated by an order under —

- (a) section 69(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 by virtue of section 124B(2) of that Act, or
- (b) section 8A(1) of the Academies Act 2010 (16 to 19 academies having religious character), and

references to the order designating the Academy as having a religious character should be read accordingly.”

(2) The Academies Act 2010 is amended in accordance with subsections (3) to (5).

(3) After section 2A insert —

“2AA Academy agreements: provision about failing Academy proprietors

- (1) An Academy agreement must include provision allowing the Secretary of State to terminate the agreement if the Chief Inspector has given notice under section 122H(3)(a) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that —
 - (a) the persons responsible for leading, managing and governing the Academy proprietor are failing to lead, manage or govern the Academy proprietor to an acceptable standard, or
 - (b) the Academy proprietor is failing to lead, manage or govern an Academy of which it is the proprietor to an acceptable standard.
- (2) The Academy agreement must require the Secretary of State, before terminating the agreement on one of those grounds, to give the proprietor a termination warning notice.
- (3) A termination warning notice is a notice —

- (a) requesting that the Academy proprietor respond to the Secretary of State by making representations, or
 - (b) requiring the Academy proprietor –
 - (i) to take specified action by a specified date, and
 - (ii) to respond to the Secretary of State by making representations, or by agreeing to take that action, by a specified date.
- (4) The Academy agreement must provide that, where a termination warning notice under subsection (3)(b) is given to the Academy proprietor on one of the grounds specified in subsection (1), the power to terminate the agreement is available only if the proprietor has failed to comply with the termination warning notice (whether by failing to take specified action, or to respond, on time)."
- (4) For section 2C (new academy agreements) substitute –

“2C Sections 2A, 2AA and 2B supplementary - new agreements

- (1) An Academy agreement made on or after 18 April 2016, but before the day on which section [*inspection of Academy proprietors*] of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 comes fully into force may include further provision about –
 - (a) the procedure for terminating the agreement in accordance with the provision required by section 2A or 2B;
 - (b) the consequences of terminating the agreement in accordance with that provision.
- (2) An academy agreement made on or after the day on which section [*inspection of Academy proprietors*] of the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 comes fully into force may include further provision about –
 - (a) the procedure for terminating the agreement in accordance with the provision required by section 2A, 2AA or 2B;
 - (b) the consequences of terminating the agreement in accordance with that provision.
- (3) Section 2D makes provision about agreements entered into before those dates.”
- (5) For section 2D (old academy agreements) substitute –

“2D Sections 2A, 2AA and 2B supplementary - old agreements

- (1) An old Academy agreement is to be treated as if it included the new termination powers.
- (2) A pre-section 2AA agreement is to be treated as if it included the section 2AA termination powers.
- (3) A provision of an old Academy agreement that relates to the procedure for terminating the agreement does not apply to the new termination powers.

- (4) A provision of a pre-section 2AA agreement that relates to the procedure for terminating the agreement does not apply to the section 2AA termination powers.
- (5) Subsections (6) and (7) apply where an old Academy agreement or a pre-section 2AA Academy agreement –
 - (a) contains provision about the consequences of terminating the agreement (“relevant provision”), and
 - (b) the relevant provision is expressed in a way that –
 - (i) in the case of an old Academy agreement, is capable of covering termination in accordance with the new termination powers;
 - (ii) in the case of a pre-section 2AA agreement, is capable of covering termination in accordance with the section 2AA termination powers.
- (6) The relevant provision applies to termination in accordance with –
 - (a) in the case of an old Academy agreement, the new termination powers;
 - (b) in the case of a pre-section 2AA agreement, the section 2AA termination powers.
- (7) If the relevant provision sets out different consequences depending on whether the agreement is terminated on the ground that the proprietor has breached the Agreement or on other grounds –
 - (a) in the case of an old Academy agreement, termination in accordance with the new termination powers is to be treated as termination on the grounds of breach by the proprietor, and
 - (b) in the case of a pre-section 2AA agreement, termination in accordance with the section 2AA termination powers, is to be treated as termination on the grounds of breach by the proprietor.
- .
 - (8) In this section –
 - “new termination powers”, in relation to an Academy agreement, means the powers to terminate in accordance with the provision required by sections 2A, 2AA and 2B;
 - “old Academy agreement” means an Academy agreement made before 18 April 2016;
 - “pre-section 2AA agreement” means an Academy agreement made on or after the 18 April 2016, but before the day on which section *[inspection of Academy proprietors]* of the Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 comes fully into force;
 - “section 2AA termination powers” in relation to an Academy agreement, means the powers to terminate in accordance with the provision required by section 2AA.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would amend Part 8 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to establish a statutory regime for the inspection by Ofsted of Academy trusts. It would also amend the Academies Act 2010 to permit termination of a trust's funding agreements in specified circumstances arising from an inspection.

Clause 51

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 51, page 118, leave out lines 2 to 23, 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.

LORD STOREY

Clause 51, page 118, line 4, at end insert –

“(c) after subsection (1A) insert –

“(1B) Before deciding whether to issue an Academy order in respect of a maintained school, the Secretary of State must issue an invitation for expressions of interest for suitable sponsors.

(1C) The Secretary of State must make an assessment of whether to issue an Academy order based on the established track record of parties who responded to the invitation issued under subsection (1B) with an expression of interest in raising school standards.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment creates an obligation to invite, and assess the value of, alternative sponsorship of those schools which may be subject to an Academy Order, ahead of the Order being enacted.

LORD STOREY

Clause 51, page 118, line 23 at end insert –

“(10) Before the amendments made by this section come into force, the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a report detailing –

- (a) the mechanisms, including Academy Orders, by which improvement of school standards can be achieved, and
- (b) guidance on the appropriate usage of these mechanisms.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment mandates the Secretary of State to report on the existing mechanisms for improvement of school standards, ahead of amendments relating to academy orders, being tabled.

After Clause 56

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 56, insert the following new Clause –

“Reasonableness and safeguards in the exercise of local authority powers

- (1) In exercising powers under sections 54 to 56, a local authority must act reasonably and proportionately, having regard to –
 - (a) the needs of the child,
 - (b) the needs of other pupils at the school, and
 - (c) the capacity of the school to meet the child's needs safely and effectively.
- (2) An Academy may, within 10 school days of receiving a direction or proposed direction under sections 54 to 56, notify the local authority and the Secretary of

State that it considers the direction to be unreasonable on one or more of the following grounds –

- (a) that the Academy cannot reasonably be expected, with the resources and specialist expertise available to it, to meet the child's special educational needs or other significant additional needs;
 - (b) that admitting the child would seriously prejudice the education or welfare of existing pupils or the safety of pupils or staff;
 - (c) that suitable and reasonably accessible alternative provision is available which is better able to meet the child's needs;
 - (d) that the direction is otherwise irrational or disproportionate.
- (3) Where notice is given under subsection (2), the direction shall not take effect until –
- (a) the Secretary of State has confirmed, varied or set aside the direction, or
 - (b) such other independent review body as may be prescribed by regulations has determined the matter.
- (4) Before confirming or varying a direction under subsection (3), the Secretary of State (or other prescribed body) must –
- (a) give the Academy proprietor and the local authority an opportunity to make written representations, and
 - (b) have regard to any relevant code of practice or statutory guidance.
- (5) In this section “Academy” has the same meaning as in this Act.
- (6) In exercising functions under this section, the Secretary of State (or other prescribed body) must have particular regard to the importance of securing fair access for looked-after children, previously looked-after children, children who have been excluded from a previous school and children with an education, health and care plan.
- (7) 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 new clause provides safeguards for Academies where a local authority uses its powers under clauses 54 to 56 to direct an Academy to admit a particular child.

Clause 57

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 57, page 122, line 21, at end insert –

- “(5A) The adjudicator may not issue a direction under this section requiring the governing body of a maintained school or the proprietor of an Academy to reduce the school's published admission number unless satisfied that –

- (a) the direction is necessary and proportionate to secure the efficient and effective use of education provision within the local authority area, and
 - (b) the school—
 - (i) is not operating at or above its current published admission number, and
 - (ii) has not, within the period of three years preceding the direction, been assessed by His Majesty's Chief Inspector as providing education that is of a high quality.
- (5B) For the purposes of subsection (5A)(b)(ii), a school shall be regarded as providing education of a high quality where—
- (a) the most recent inspection carried out under section 5 or section 8 of the Education Act 2005 (duty to inspect schools) concludes that the quality of education at the school is effective or better, or
 - (b) any equivalent finding is made under an inspection framework that succeeds that in force at the passing of this Act.
- (5C) Before issuing a direction under this section requiring a reduction in a school's published admission number, the adjudicator must consider whether the objective could more appropriately be achieved by means of changes to the pattern of provision in the area, including (where appropriate) the amalgamation or closure of schools, in accordance with any applicable statutory and departmental guidance on school organisation.
- (5D) In exercising functions under this section, the adjudicator must have regard to—
- (a) the desirability of giving effect to parental preferences for schools, and
 - (b) the need to avoid measures that would unduly restrict access to schools that are providing high-quality education or that are in strong demand from parents."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to limit the circumstances in which the schools adjudicator may direct a maintained school or academy to reduce its published admission number and requires the adjudicator to consider alternative school organisation measures (including amalgamation or closure) before constraining the intake of popular or high quality schools.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

Leave out Clause 57

After Clause 57

BARONESS BURT OF SOLIHULL

After Clause 57, insert the following new Clause –

“Reporting of faith-based selection in school admissions

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, collect and publish data on the individual admission arrangements used by all schools.
- (2) The Secretary of State must, on an annual basis –
 - (a) require schools, via the school census, to report their current admission policy, specifying the proportion of places that may be allocated based on faith-related criteria such as proof of religious affiliation;
 - (b) include information on school admissions and faith-based selection in all relevant education data publications, including national education statistics, Department for Education published data files, and the “Get Information About Schools” service.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new Clause would introduce a requirement for regular and transparent reporting of individual school admission arrangements. It seeks to clarify the extent to which schools with a religious character use faith-based criteria – such as proof of faith – for selecting pupils.

Clause 58

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★

Clause 58, page 124, line 14, at end insert –

- “(5) In section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 (consultation: new and expanded educational institutions), in subsection (1)(a) omit the words from “other” to “authority),”.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the duty to consult under section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 on whether Academy arrangements should be entered into would also apply to new educational institutions that are the subject of proposals pursuant to a notice under section 7 of Education and Inspections Act 2006.

BARONESS BARRAN

Leave out Clause 58

Clause 62

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★

Leave out Clause 62

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would remove provision no longer needed because of the new general data protection override in section 183A and effect of 183B of the Data Protection Act 2018, both inserted by section 106 of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 which came into force on 20 August 2025.

After Clause 63

LORD NORTON OF LOUTH

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Review of the Act

- (1) The Secretary of State must —
 - (a) carry out a review of the operation and effect of this Act,
 - (b) set out the conclusions of the review in a report,
 - (c) publish the report, and
 - (d) lay a copy of the report before Parliament.
- (2) The report must be published before the end of the period of five years beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.”

LORD HARRIES OF PENTREGARTH
LORD HODGSON OF ASTLEY ABBOTTS
LORD NORTON OF LOUTH

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Citizenship education: British values

- (1) In any statement relating to British values for education purposes at primary and secondary level in England and Wales, the Secretary of State, OFSTED and any other public authority must include —
 - (a) democracy,
 - (b) the rule of law,
 - (c) freedom,
 - (d) equal respect for every person, and
 - (e) respect for the environment.
- (2) Any statement in subsection (1) must refer to British values as “values of British citizenship”.

- (3) The values listed under paragraphs (1)(a) to (e) must be taught as part of citizenship education for key stages 1, 2, 3 and 4.
- (4) In section (1)(a) “democracy” includes –
 - (a) an independent judiciary,
 - (b) in a Parliamentary system, a Government that is accountable to Parliament, regular election, and
 - (c) decentralised decision-making, accountable at an appropriate level to the electorate.
- (5) In subsection (1)(c) “freedom” includes –
 - (a) freedom of thought, conscience and religion,
 - (b) freedom of expression, and
 - (c) freedom of assembly and association.
- (6) In subsection (1)(e) “respect for the environment” means taking into account the systemic effect of human actions on the health and sustainability of the environment both within the United Kingdom and the planet as a whole, for present and future generations.”

LORD YOUNG OF ACTON
LORD BRADY OF ALTRINCHAM

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Duty to keep schools open for in person attendance

- (1) So far as reasonably possible, public authorities must ensure that, during the period of any civil emergency, schools are kept open for in person attendance by children and young people.
- (2) The Secretary of State must, by regulations, make provision about how public authorities should discharge the duty under subsection (1), including provision specifying –
 - (a) steps that a public authority may or must take to comply with the duty, and
 - (b) actions that a public authority is prohibited from taking.
- (3) Regulations made under subsection (2) must be made by statutory instrument.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (2) may not be made unless a draft has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.
- (5) A power to make regulations under this section includes the power to make –
 - (a) consequential, incidental, supplementary, transitional or saving provision;
 - (b) different provision for different purposes.
- (6) A public authority must not, in response to a civil emergency, take or facilitate any action (including making regulations, issuing directions, issuing orders, giving guidance, or making recommendations) that –

- (a) results in, or encourages, the closure of schools, or
 - (b) otherwise prevents or restricts lawful attendance at such institutions or premises by children and young people,unless the requirements of subsection (7) are met.
- (7) Before taking any action of the kind described in subsection (6), the public authority must first, unless the urgency of the civil emergency precludes this –
 - (a) request the advice of the Children's Commissioner on the likely impact of such action on the children and young people who will be affected by the action,
 - (b) provide the Children's Commissioner with full and complete information about the nature of and reasons for the proposed action, and
 - (c) have due regard to the Children's Commissioner's advice in determining whether to proceed with the action.
- (8) If any action of the kind described in subsection (6) is taken prior to seeking the advice of the Children's Commissioner due to urgency –
 - (a) as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within seven days of taking the action, the public authority must provide the Children's Commissioner with full and complete information about the nature of and reasons for that action;
 - (b) the Children's Commissioner must then promptly, and in any event within 14 days of the action having been taken, provide the public authority with its advice in relation to the impact of that action on children and young people;
 - (c) the public authority, having due regard to the Commissioner's advice, shall determine whether the action continues to be justified or whether it should be revoked.
- (9) If action of the kind described in subsection (6) continues beyond 14 days, and in relation to each such period of 14 days thereafter, the Secretary of State must –
 - (a) lay before Parliament a copy of the Children's Commissioner's advice, and
 - (b) seek approval from both Houses of Parliament for the continuation of the action.
- (10) If Parliament does not approve continuation under subsection (9)(b) within 14 days of the advice of the Children's Commissioner being laid before Parliament under subsection 9(a), the relevant action automatically lapses, and any measures (including regulations, directions, orders, guidance, or recommendations made in support of or continuance of the relevant action) become legally void.
- (11) Where under any of the above provisions the advice of the Children's Commissioner is sought, the Children's Commissioner shall set out in writing his or her advice on the following matters –
 - (a) the foreseeable impacts of any closures of schools on the affected children and young people,
 - (b) any reasonable actions that could be taken to mitigate those impacts,

- (c) whether the anticipated benefits for those children of the closures identified by the public authority appear to him or her to outweigh the foreseeable impacts of closures for those children, and
 - (d) any other matters which appear to him or her to be relevant.
- (12) The Children's Commissioner is entitled to require the public authority or the Secretary of State to provide such further information, assistance, and resources as he or she considers necessary in order to set out his or her advice on a particular action and the public authority or the Secretary of State, as the case may be, shall provide such information, assistance or resources as soon as reasonably practicable.
- (13) For the purposes of this section –
 - “children” means persons under the age of 18;
 - “civil emergency” shall include any emergency situation which could constitute an emergency for the purposes of section 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 or which has otherwise been identified as a risk in the UK's National Security Risk Assessment. For the avoidance of doubt an emergency need not be the subject of measures taken under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to be a civil emergency for the purposes of this Act;
 - “closure” in relation to schools, means any action to discourage, restrict or prevent in person attendance at those institutions or premises by children and young people who would ordinarily be entitled to attend, or any sub-group or class of such children or young people;
 - “open for in person attendance” in relation to schools, means being open for the attendance by all of the children who would ordinarily, and but for the occurrence of a civil emergency, be entitled to attend those institutions or premises, during their normal hours of operation;
 - “open for in person attendance” does not include the provision of online learning or other remote learning services nor the keeping of such institutions or premises open for physical attendance only for a sub-group or class of those children or young people who would ordinarily be entitled to attend;
 - “public authority” has the same meaning as in section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 save that a court or tribunal is not included for these purposes.”

Member's explanatory statement

The purpose of the amendment is to enact a statutory duty to keep schools open for in person attendance in future public health and other civil emergencies, unless Parliament expressly approves, and continues every two weeks to approve, any closures.

BARONESS MORGAN OF COTES
BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT

After Clause 63, 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.

BARONESS MORGAN OF COTES
LORD FREYBERG

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Allergy safety provisions in schools

- (1) Within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed, all schools in England must —
 - (a) adopt a school allergy and anaphylaxis policy,
 - (b) obtain individual healthcare and anaphylaxis action plans for all pupils with allergies,

- (c) purchase and store in-date adrenaline auto-injectors on school property,
 - (d) provide training for school staff on allergy awareness and administering adrenaline auto-injectors, and
 - (e) record any allergic reactions in the pupil's individual healthcare and anaphylaxis action plan.
- (2) The Secretary of State must provide guidance to schools on the implementation of subsection (1) within six months of the day on which this Bill is passed."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to introduce mandatory allergy safety policies for all schools in England.

LORD FREYBERG

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Baroness Morgan of Cotes to After Clause 63

After subsection (1)(a), insert –

- “(aa) ensure that the school’s allergy and anaphylaxis policy applies to any external catering provider operating on school premises and that such providers comply with the policy when preparing and serving food to pupils,”

LORD FREYBERG

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Baroness Morgan of Coates to After Clause 63

After subsection (1)(a), insert –

- “(aa) ensure that any contract agreed with an external catering provider includes –
- (i) a requirement for the provider to comply with the school’s allergy and anaphylaxis policy,
 - (ii) procedures for sharing allergen information,
 - (iii) mandatory measures for preventing cross-contamination, and
 - (iv) actions to be taken by the catering provider in response to allergic reactions,”

LORD FREYBERG

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Baroness Morgan of Coates to after Clause 63

After subsection (1)(a), insert –

- “(aa) ensure that any contract agreed with an external provider includes –
- (i) a requirement for the provider to comply with the school’s allergy and anaphylaxis policy, and
 - (ii) actions to be taken by the provider in response to allergic reactions,”

LORD FREYBERG

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Baroness Morgan of Cotes to After Clause 63

After subsection (1)(a), insert –

“(aa) be provided with in-date adrenaline auto-injectors by the NHS,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and another in the name of Lord Freyberg seek to ensure that schools do not have to pay for adrenaline auto-injectors.

LORD FREYBERG

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Baroness Morgan of Cotes to After Clause 63

In subsection (1)(c) leave out “purchase and”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and another in the name of Lord Freyberg seek to ensure that schools do not have to pay for adrenaline auto-injectors.

BARONESS BARRAN
BARONESS CASS
LORD HAMPTON
BARONESS KIDRON

After Clause 63, 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 –

“smartphone” 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.

LORD ADDINGTON

As an amendment to the above amendment in the name of Baroness Barran to After Clause 63.

After subsection (2)(b), insert –

“(ba) may provide for exemptions for assistive technologies that are deemed necessary for a student’s education,”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would add assistive technologies that are necessary for students' education, to the list of exemptions that can apply to the prohibition of smartphone use and possession.

BARONESS BARRAN
LORD HAMPTON

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Permanent exclusion: assessment

After being informed that a pupil has been permanently excluded from a school or academy, the local authority must carry out an assessment under paragraph 3 (assessment of children’s needs) of Schedule 2 of the Children Act 1989.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to require the local authority to undertake an assessment of the needs of the child if they are permanently excluded from school.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Behaviour improvement: presumption against reinstatement for children who engage in extremely serious behaviour

(1) The School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/1033) are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 6, after paragraph (3) insert –

“(3A) For any pupil engaged in any of the circumstances set out in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c), the presumption should be that the governing body must not reinstate the pupil unless a risk assessment has been carried out which demonstrates that the student does not present a heightened risk factor to other students and staff –

- (a) where a pupil's possession of a knife or other offensive weapon was a factor in the decision to exclude the child;
- (b) where the pupil's behaviour which led to their being excluded included sexual assault;
- (c) where the pupil's behaviour which led to their being excluded included assault against a teacher.

(3B) Any risk assessment required under paragraph (3A) must demonstrate how this risk has been eliminated or negated.

(3C) Where a pupil has not been reinstated as a result of conditions under paragraph (3A), the pupil must be relocated to an environment that is more suitable to their challenging behaviour, such as a People Referral Unit or Alternative Provision or similar.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe the Government's willingness to introduce a presumption against the reinstatement of a child who has been excluded for possession of a knife or other offensive weapon, sexual assault, or assault against a teacher. It would instead mean that the pupil must be relocated to an environment that is more suitable to challenging behaviour.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Behaviour improvement: presumption against reinstatement in a mainstream school for children who have been permanently excluded on two occasions

- (1) The School Discipline (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (England) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/1033) are amended as follows.
- (2) In regulation 6, after paragraph (3) insert –

“(3A) Where a pupil has been permanently excluded on two occasions, the presumption should be the governing body of any mainstream school must not reinstate the pupil unless a risk assessment has been carried out which demonstrates that the student does not present a heightened risk factor to other students and staff, in which case the school must be able to demonstrate how this risk has been eliminated or negated.

(3B) Where a pupil has not been reinstated as a result of conditions under paragraph (3A), the pupil must be relocated to an environment that is more suitable to their challenging behaviour, such as a People Referral Unit or Alternative Provision or similar.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe the Government's willingness to introduce a presumption against the reinstatement of a child who has been permanently excluded on two occasions from any mainstream school from being moved to another mainstream school and relocated to an environment that is more suitable to their challenging behaviour, such as a Pupil Referral Unit or Alternative Provision or similar.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Guidance for schools on gender questioning children

- (1) The Secretary of State must publish statutory guidance for schools on gender questioning children on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (2) A relevant school must have regard to the guidance on gender questioning children published by the Secretary of State under this section.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to require the Department for Education to publish the guidance for schools on gender questioning children and schools must have regard for the guidance.

BARONESS LISTER OF BURTERSETT
LORD MESTON
THE LORD BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER
BARONESS WALMSLEY

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Child rights impact assessment

- (1) A Minister of the Crown must prepare and publish a child rights impact assessment in relation to any legislative provision, policy decision, budgetary decision, or other decision of a strategic nature that has or will have a direct or indirect impact on children’s wellbeing, social care or education.
- (2) The purpose of a child rights impact assessment is to secure better or further effect of the rights set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- (3) A child rights impact assessment must include consideration of the views, wishes and feelings of children and young people affected by the decision, insofar as the Minister is able to ascertain those views.
- (4) A child rights impact assessment should be undertaken on all relevant legislation, policy and budget development which will have a direct or indirect impact on children’s wellbeing, social care or education at the earliest possible opportunity and prior to making final decisions.
- (5) As soon as is practicable after the end of each three-year period, the Secretary of State must publish (in such a manner as they deem appropriate) a report on the steps taken to ensure that child rights impact assessments undertaken fully consider all relevant articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are carried out consistently for any legislative provision, policy decision, budgetary decision, or other decision of a strategic nature that has or will have a direct or indirect impact on children’s wellbeing, social care or education.
- (6) A report published under subsection (5) must include –

- (a) an assessment of how CRIAs have contributed to securing better or further effect of the rights set out in the UNCRC in relation to children's wellbeing, social care and education;
 - (b) steps taken to promote understanding and awareness of CRIAs across government departments;
 - (c) guidance and training provided to government departments to support the production child rights impact assessments.
- (7) The UNCRC includes the rights and obligations set out in—
 - (a) the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Part 1;
 - (b) Articles 1 to 6(1), 6(3) and 7 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
 - (c) Articles 1 to 10 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
 - (d) any other Optional Protocols to the UNCRC that the United Kingdom may in future ratify.
- (8) The UNCRC rights and obligations for the purposes of this Act are subject to any reservations, objections or interpretative declarations by the United Kingdom as may be in force at the time.
- (9) The UNCRC rights and obligations for the purposes of this Act should be interpreted in the light of General Comments prepared by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child under rule 77 of its procedure and Concluding Observations made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in response to a United Kingdom report under Article 45 paragraph (d) of the Convention."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment will introduce a statutory requirement for Ministers – and thereby government departments – to routinely prepare and make publicly available a children's rights assessment of the impact and/or expected impact of any proposed legislation, policy, budgetary decision or other strategic decision as they relate to children's wellbeing, social care or education, and to periodically report on the steps taken to ensure that such reports fully consider all relevant articles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are carried out consistently across government.

LORD STOREY

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“National tutoring guarantee

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, 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.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Parental complaints (maintained schools)

- (1) After section 29 of the Education Act 2002 insert –

“29ZA Parental complaints: appeals

- (1) A complainant may appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Health, Education and Social Care Chamber) where –
 - (a) the complaint was against a maintained school in England under section 29(1),
 - (b) the complainant was a parent of a registered pupil at the school at the time they first pursued the complaint,
 - (c) the complaint specified one or more legal duties listed in Schedule 1A of which the school was alleged to be in breach,
 - (d) the complaints process under section 29(1) was completed,
 - (e) the complaint was not fully upheld in respect of one or more of the matters specified as described in paragraph (c), and

- (f) the complainant does not have and has not had any other prescribed right of appeal apart from that provided under section 29(1) and this section.
- (2) The Secretary of State must make regulations about appeals to the First-tier Tribunal in respect of subsection (1), including—
 - (a) making and determining appeals;
 - (b) the powers of the tribunal on determining an appeal.
- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) may include provision conferring power on the First-tier Tribunal, on determining an appeal against a matter, to make recommendations in respect of other matters (including matters against which no appeal may be brought).
- (4) A person commits an offence if without reasonable excuse that person fails to comply with any requirement—
 - (a) in respect of the discovery or inspection of documents, or
 - (b) to attend to give evidence and produce documents, where that requirement is imposed by Tribunal Procedure Rules in relation to an appeal under this section or regulations under subsection (2).
- (5) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (4) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.”
- (2) After Schedule 1 to the Education Act 2002 insert—

“SCHEDULE 1A

LEGAL DUTIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 29ZA

- 1 (1) The legal duties to which section 29ZA applies are as follows.
- (2) The Education Act 1996—
 - (a) section 9 (education in accordance with parental wishes),
 - (b) section 402 (obligation to enter pupils for public examinations),
 - (c) sections 403 to 405 (sex education),
 - (d) sections 406 to 407 (politics), and
 - (e) section 542(1) (prescribed standards for school premises).
- (3) The Education Act 2002—
 - (a) sections 78 to 80B (general duties in respect of the curriculum), and
 - (b) section 175(2) and (3) (duties ... in relation to welfare of children).
- (4) The School Standards and Framework Act 1998—
 - (a) section 1(6) (duty in relation to infant class size),
 - (b) sections 69 to 71 (religious education and worship), and
 - (c) section 114A (requirements for food and drink provided on school premises etc).
- (5) Childcare Act 2006, section 40 (duty to implement Early Years Foundation Stage).

- (6) Children Act 1989, sections 87 and 87C (welfare of children in boarding schools and colleges and national minimum standards).
- (7) The Education and Inspections Act 2006, sections 88 to 94 (School Discipline).”

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Parental complaints (independent educational institutions, including academies)

After section 137 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 (service of notice etc) insert –

“137A Parental complaints: appeals

- (1) A complainant may appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Health, Education and Social Care Chamber) where –
 - (a) the complaint was against an independent educational institution in England under Part 7 of the Schedule of The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014,
 - (b) the complainant was a parent of a registered pupil at the institution at the time they first pursued the complaint, and
 - (c) the complaint specified one or more –
 - (i) Independent School Standard Regulations that apply to the institution, or
 - (ii) terms of any funding agreements between the proprietor of the institution and the Secretary of State, or
 - (iii) obligations under the memorandum and articles of the proprietor company, or
 - (iv) the proprietor’s charitable objects, or
 - (v) legal requirements that apply to the institution under the Academies Act 2010, in relation to the institution’s provision for pupils with which the proprietor is alleged to be in breach, and
 - (d) the complaints process under paragraph (a) has been completed,
 - (e) the complaint was not fully upheld in respect of one or more of the matters specified as described in (c), and
 - (f) the complainant does not have and has not had any other prescribed right of appeal beyond that provided in Part 7 of the Schedule of The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 and this section.
- (2) The Secretary of State must make regulations about appeals to the First-tier Tribunal in respect of subsection (1), including –
 - (a) making and determining appeals;
 - (b) the powers of the tribunal on determining an appeal.

- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) may include provision conferring power on the First-tier Tribunal, on determining an appeal against a matter, to make recommendations in respect of other matters (including matters against which no appeal may be brought).
- (4) A person commits an offence if without reasonable excuse that person fails to comply with any requirement –
 - (a) in respect of the discovery or inspection of documents, or
 - (b) to attend to give evidence and produce documents, where that requirement is imposed by Tribunal Procedure Rules in relation to an appeal under this section or regulations under subsection (2).
- (5) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (4) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.””

Member's explanatory statement

This clause would afford to parents the ability to appeal complaints about an independent educational institution failing to comply with its legal duties in educational provision to the first-tier tribunal in circumstances where the institution's internal complaints process has been completed and has not upheld their complaint. Independent Educational Institutions include academies.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Parental complaints (non-maintained special schools)

After section 342C of the Education Act 1996 insert –

“342D Parental complaints: appeals

- (1) A complainant may appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Health, Education and Social Care Chamber) where –
 - (a) they have pursued a complaint against a non-maintained special school in England under paragraph 31 of the Schedule of the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/728),
 - (b) the complainant was the parent of a registered pupil at the school at the time of first pursuing the complaint,
 - (c) the complaint specified one or more –
 - (i) non-maintained Special School Regulations,
 - (ii) obligations under the memorandum and articles of any proprietor company, or
 - (iii) obligations imposed under any trust deed of the school in relation to the institution's provision for pupils with which the proprietor is alleged to be in breach,
 - (d) the complaints process under paragraph (a) has been completed,
 - (e) the complaint was not fully upheld in respect of one or more of the matters specified as described in (c), and

- (f) the complainant does not have and has not had any other prescribed right of appeal beyond that provided in paragraph 31 of the Schedule to the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015 and this section.
- (2) The Secretary of State must make regulations about appeals to the First-tier Tribunal in respect of subsection (1), including –
 - (a) making and determining appeals;
 - (b) the powers of the tribunal on determining an appeal.
- (3) Regulations under subsection (2) may include provision conferring power on the First-tier Tribunal, on determining an appeal against a matter, to make recommendations in respect of other matters (including matters against which no appeal may be brought).
- (4) A person commits an offence if without reasonable excuse that person fails to comply with any requirement –
 - (a) in respect of the discovery or inspection of documents, or
 - (b) to attend to give evidence and produce documents, where that requirement is imposed by Tribunal Procedure Rules in relation to an appeal under this section or regulations under subsection (2).
- (5) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (4) is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.”

Member's explanatory statement

This clause would afford to parents the ability to appeal complaints about a non-maintained special school failing to comply with its legal duties in educational provision to the first-tier tribunal in circumstances where the school's internal complaints process has been completed and has not upheld their complaint.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Amendment of the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Chambers) Order 2010

The Secretary of State may by regulations make such amendments to the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Chambers) Order 2010, the Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Health, Education and Social Care Chamber) Rules 2008, and any other relevant subordinate legislation as are necessary or expedient in consequence of, or in connection with, sections (Parental complaints (maintained schools)), (Parental complaints (independent educational institutions, including academies)), and (Parental complaints (non-maintained special schools)) of this Act.”

Member's explanatory statement

This clause allows the Secretary of State to make amendments to secondary legislation for tribunals as a consequence of the amendments proposed on parental complaints.

LORD TARASSENKO
BARONESS KIDRON

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause—

“Register of software tools permitted in schools

- (1) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must prepare a register of software tools, including websites, which may be used by pupils for educational purposes in schools.
- (2) For their software to be listed on the register, a provider must—
 - (a) ensure their software adheres to standards set out in—
 - (i) the Age Appropriate Design Code,
 - (ii) the Online Safety Act 2023,
 - (iii) the ‘curriculum principles’ section of the final report of the 2025 Curriculum and Assessment Review, and
 - (iv) any other standards of privacy or online safety which apply to educational settings, and
 - (b) provide a helpline or adequate system for reporting any hazards, privacy breaches, or safety failures.
- (3) In establishing that the software meets the standards set out in subsection (2)(a), the Secretary of State must consult with—
 - (a) experts in data protection and online safety,
 - (b) educators,
 - (c) curriculum and school representatives, and
 - (d) any other parties the Secretary of State deems relevant.
- (4) Software tools included on the register must be whitelisted by school network firewall systems.”

LORD ADDINGTON

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause—

“Obligation to deliver the National Curriculum to a child with SEND

In exercising any duty to secure that the National Curriculum is taught to a pupil for whom special educational provision is made, the proprietor of a school must ensure that—

- (a) there are effective arrangements in place to identify, as early as reasonably practicable, pupils who may have special educational needs or disabilities,
- (b) for each such pupil, a written SEND support plan is prepared and regularly reviewed, setting out the adjustments, adaptations or disapplications from the National Curriculum, and any additional provision, reasonably required for that pupil to make progress, and

- (c) teachers and other staff have sufficient time, training and access to specialist advice to implement that plan, and to refine it in response to the pupil's progress."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would make clear that, in relation to children with SEND, the duty to teach the National Curriculum must be exercised in a way which enables schools to identify needs early and to prepare and deliver a tailored SEND support plan. It is intended to give schools greater capacity and professional agency to adapt or depart from the National Curriculum where necessary, and to ensure staff have the time, training and support needed to act on children's SEND needs.

LORD ADDINGTON

After Clause 63, 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 must include, but need not be limited to –
 - (a) supporting schools to develop and maintain effective systems for the early identification and assessment of children with SEND,
 - (b) developing and disseminating national tools, guidance and model frameworks for SEND support plans and the graduated response to SEND,
 - (c) promoting and coordinating high-quality training and professional development for the school workforce on identifying and meeting SEND, and
 - (d) advising the Secretary of State and local authorities on how funding and other resources should be targeted to build schools' capacity to identify, plan for and meet the needs of children with SEND.
- (3) In exercising its functions, the national body for SEND must have regard to the views and experiences of –
 - (a) children and young people with SEND,
 - (b) parents and carers, and
 - (c) schools, academy trusts and local authorities.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the Secretary of State to establish a national body for SEND with a specific focus on building schools' capacity and professional agency to identify children with SEND early and to put in place high-quality SEND support plans. The body would develop tools and guidance, support workforce training and advise on the targeting of resources needed for schools to act effectively on children's SEND needs.

LORD ADDINGTON

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Review of off-rolling in schools

- (1) Within 12 months of the passing of this Act, the Secretary of State must publish a review into the practice of off-rolling in schools.
- (2) The review must produce proposals outlining the steps necessary to eliminate the practice of off-rolling in schools.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to review the practice of off-rolling and to produce proposals to eliminate the practice.

BARONESS BURT OF SOLIHULL

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education in assemblies

- (1) Chapter 6 of Part 2 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (religious education and worship) is amended as follows.
- (2) For section 70(1) (requirements relating to collective worship) substitute —
 - “(1) Subject to section 71, each pupil in attendance at —
 - (a) a community, foundation or voluntary school in Wales,
 - (b) a foundation or voluntary school in England which is designated with a religious character, or
 - (c) an Academy in England which is designated with a religious character,
 must take part in an act of collective worship at least one time per week.”
- (3) In section 70(2), for “community, foundation or voluntary school”, substitute “school to which subsection (1) applies”.
- (4) After section 70, insert —

“70A Requirements relating to assemblies

- (1) This section applies to schools in England that are —
 - (a) maintained schools without a religious character,
 - (b) non-maintained special schools,
 - (c) City Technology Colleges, and
 - (d) academies without a religious character.
- (2) Each pupil in attendance at a school to which this section applies must at least once during the school week take part in an assembly which is principally directed towards furthering the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of the pupils regardless of religion or belief.

- (3) In relation to any school to which this section applies –
 - (a) the local authority responsible for education (in the case of maintained schools) and the governing body must exercise their functions with a view to securing, and
 - (b) the head teacher must secure,
 that subsection (2) is complied with.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment removes the requirement for daily collective worship in England for maintained schools and academies without a religious character, non-maintained special schools, and city technology colleges, and instead introduces a requirement for a minimum weekly assembly furthering spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.

BARONESS BURT OF SOLIHULL

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Inclusion of non-religious beliefs in religious education

- (1) Section 375 of the Education Act 1996 (agreed syllabuses of religious education) is amended as follows.
- (2) Omit subsection (3) and insert –
 - “(3) Every agreed syllabus shall –
 - (a) reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, and
 - (b) take account of the teachings of the other principal religions and non-religious beliefs represented in Great Britain.
 - (3A) In subsection (3)(b), the reference to non-religious beliefs is to non-religious philosophical convictions that –
 - (a) are explicitly non-religious, and
 - (b) are philosophical convictions within the meaning of Article 2 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights.
 - (3B) In subsection (3A)(b) –
 - “the European Convention on Human Rights” means the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, agreed by the Council of Europe at Rome on 4 November 1950, as it has effect for the time being in relation to the United Kingdom;
 - “the First Protocol”, in relation to that Convention, means the protocol to the Convention agreed at Paris on 20 March 1952.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires non-religious beliefs to be taught in religious education, and defines non-religious beliefs for those purposes.

LORD O'DONNELL
 BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD
 LORD LAYARD
 LORD WATSON OF INVERGOWRIE

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Establishment of a national children’s wellbeing measurement programme

- (1) The Secretary of State must establish a national children’s wellbeing measurement programme.
- (2) A programme established under this section must —
 - (a) conduct a voluntary annual online national survey of the wellbeing of children in relevant schools in England;
 - (b) make provision for school, parental and student consent to participation in the survey, ensuring that participation is voluntary and that results are handled confidentially;
 - (c) provide central analysis of data and support for schools in the administration of the survey;
 - (d) regularly publish the results of the survey and provide relevant data to participating schools, local authorities and other public bodies for the purposes of improving children’s wellbeing.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, “wellbeing” includes the drivers of wellbeing, including nutrition, physical activity, participation in arts, culture and entertainment and any other factors the Secretary of State deems relevant.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, “relevant schools” includes academy schools, alternative provision, maintained schools, non-maintained special schools, independent schools, and pupil referral units.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would require the department to introduce a national wellbeing measurement programme, based on a survey that would be voluntary for schools and pupils. The intention is to protect the anonymity of participants, ensure that no one is compelled to take part, and safeguard the privacy of any information provided.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Device-based examinations: secondary education examinations

- (1) Before the beginning of the 2026/27 academic year the Secretary of State must, by regulations made by statutory instrument, require examination boards to ensure that all secondary education examinations are completed by pupils by hand, and not by means of a computer or a personal electronic device.
- (2) Any regulations made under subsection (1) may provide for exceptions —

- (a) in relation to the examination of subjects for which computer or device use proficiency is a core element of the subject, such as computing and music technology, or
 - (b) where completing an exam by means of a computer or a personal electronic device—
 - (i) is more appropriate for a pupil with special educational needs or disabilities, or
 - (ii) is required by a pupil's education, health and care plan.
- (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
- (4) For the purposes of this section “pupil” has the meaning given by the section 3 of the Education Act 1996 (definition of pupil etc).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that secondary education examinations are completed by hand and without pupils needing to use a computer or a personal electronic device, subject to relevant subject or SEND exceptions.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause—

“Device-based examinations: reception baseline assessments

- (1) Before the beginning of the 2026/27 academic year, the Secretary of State must, by regulations made by statutory instrument, require that reception baseline assessments are completed by pupils otherwise than by means of a computer or a personal electronic device.
- (2) Any regulations made under subsection (1) may provide for exceptions for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.
- (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.
- (4) For the purposes of this section “pupil” has the meaning given by the section 3 of the Education Act 1996 (definition of pupil etc).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the reception baseline assessment is completed without pupils needing to be able to use a computer or a personal electronic device, unless relevant SEND exceptions apply.

BARONESS BARRAN

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Right to opt out from device-based homework

- (1) Before the beginning of the 2026/27 academic year, the Secretary of State must, by regulations made by statutory instrument, confer a right for parents to elect, by giving notice in writing to a school, for their child to receive, complete and submit homework tasks otherwise than by means of a computer or a personal electronic device.
- (2) Any regulations made under subsection (1) —
 - (a) must apply to all schools in England;
 - (b) may provide for parents to withdraw any notice previously given to a school, provided they give reasonable warning;
 - (c) may provide for schools temporarily to disregard any such notice in relation to certain or all subjects —
 - (i) by agreement with the parents,
 - (ii) if the headteacher reasonably considers in relation to a particular pupil that it is necessary to do so to accommodate the medical or educational needs of that pupil and provided that the school has first consulted with the parents, or
 - (iii) in exceptional circumstances if the headteacher reasonably considers that it is necessary to do so to maintain continuity of educational provision for particular pupils or for all pupils attending the school.
- (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.
- (4) For the purposes of this section “parent”, “pupil” and “school” have the meanings given in the Education Act 1996 (see sections 3, 4 and 576 of that Act).”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment establishes a right for parents to ensure their child is able to complete homework without the use of a computer or personal device.

BARONESS TYLER OF ENFIELD

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause —

“Mental health support in schools

- (1) In exercising functions relating to the commissioning, funding and guidance of Mental Health Support Teams, the Secretary of State must ensure that children and young people are able to access emotional and mental health support within their school, delivered by practitioners registered with, or accredited by, a body recognised by the Secretary of State.

- (2) This must include access to school-based counselling or equivalent therapeutic support for pupils whose needs –
 - (a) are too complex for low-intensity interventions, but
 - (b) do not meet the threshold for referral to specialist child and adolescent mental health services.
- (3) Guidance issued by the Secretary of State in connection with mental health support in schools must set out how teams can have access to counselling support alongside existing roles, including through commissioning arrangements, partnership working, or referral pathways.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to ensure Mental Health Support Teams provide access to counselling or equivalent therapeutic support in schools for pupils whose needs exceed low-intensity interventions but fall below CAMHS thresholds.

BARONESS KIDRON
BARONESS CASS
LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Code of practice on the efficacy of education technology in schools

- (1) The Secretary of State must prepare a statutory code of practice on the efficacy of educational technology (“EdTech”) for teaching in schools within 18 months of the date on which this Act is passed.
- (2) The code of practice must set pedagogical standards for EdTech used in schools, including digital products, software or services used for teaching, learning, assessment, or communication.
- (3) The standards under subsection (2) must –
 - (a) consider all types of schools;
 - (b) require transparency and efficacy of EdTech products and services in line with pedagogical standards currently used for measurement of attainment and the wellbeing of children in the provision of education.
- (4) In preparing a code or amendments under this section, the Secretary of State must –
 - (a) have regard to the fact that children may have different requirements at different ages and stages of development,
 - (b) have regard to the costs of EdTech products and services to school budgets,
 - (c) have regard to the need to support innovation to enhance children’s education and learning opportunities, including testing of novel products and supporting the certification and development of standards, and
 - (d) ensure that the benefits from EdTech products and services developed using children’s data accrue to the United Kingdom.

- (5) In preparing a code or amendments under this section, the Secretary of State must consult with—
 - (a) educators,
 - (b) children,
 - (c) parents,
 - (d) persons who appear to the Secretary of State to represent the interests of teachers,
 - (e) persons who appear to the Secretary of State to represent the interests of children,
 - (f) persons who appear to the Secretary of State to represent the interests of schools,
 - (g) child development experts,
 - (h) curriculum and subject experts,
 - (i) trade associations,
 - (j) the AI Security Institute, and
 - (k) the relevant education department for each nation of the United Kingdom.
- (6) The Secretary of State must prepare a report, in consultation with persons listed in subsection (5), on the steps required to develop a certification scheme for EdTech products and services to enable the industry to demonstrate the efficacy of its products in line with the standards under subsection (2).
- (7) The certification scheme under subsection (6) must be a minimum requirement for the procurement of EdTech products and services in schools (of any status) in England.
- (8) Where requested, evidence of compliance with the code under subsection (1) or a certification standard prepared under subsection (6) must be provided by relevant providers of EdTech products and services in a manner that satisfies the obligations of education providers under the Code.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to prepare a statutory code of practice which establishes minimum pedagogical standards for EdTech used in schools. In the process, they must consult with stakeholders and prepare a report in advance of the code's creation.

BARONESS KIDRON
BARONESS CASS
LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause—

“Statutory standards of filtering and monitoring systems deployed in schools

- (1) The Secretary of State must by regulations made by statutory instrument specify minimum standards for filtering and monitoring technologies used to safeguard children in schools within 12 months of the date the Act is passed.
- (2) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

- (3) These regulations apply to any filtering and monitoring systems procured by or deployed in schools.
- (4) The standards in subsection (1) must –
 - (a) meet the standards of the Department for Education's Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance;
 - (b) meet the standards of the Department for Education's Meeting Digital and Technology Standards in Schools guidance, including its filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges;
 - (c) meet the standards of the Department for Education's Generative AI: product safety expectations;
 - (d) prevent filtering and monitoring systems' barriers to accessing illegal content from being switched off;
 - (e) set out that filtering and monitoring systems' data collection practices must be limited to that necessary to perform filtering and monitoring functions, and meet the standards of any relevant codes of practice published by the Information Commissioner's Office;
 - (f) ensure that providers of filtering and monitoring systems comply with all child protection laws and duties.
- (5) Nothing in subsections (4)(a) to (e) must prevent teachers and school safeguarding professionals from carrying out their safeguarding duties.
- (6) Filtering and monitoring standards set out in subsection (4) must be certified by an accreditation scheme sanctioned by the Department for Education.
- (7) Certification must be dependent on the completion of a real-time test each term, delivered remotely or in person, to ensure compliance with the requirements of subsection (4).
- (8) When inspecting a school, the Secretary of State must require OFSTED to ensure that –
 - (a) schools have a certified filtering and monitoring system;
 - (b) real-time tests, set out in subsection (7), are conducted and recorded;
 - (c) incidents or breaches are recorded."

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to put existing filtering and monitoring standards on a statutory footing to ensure that filtering and monitoring systems used by schools are effective, protect data, and enable teachers and schools to carry out their safeguarding duties.

BARONESS KIDRON
BARONESS CASS
LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL

After Clause 63, insert the following new Clause –

“Code of practice on children’s data and education

- (1) The Information Commissioner’s office must prepare a code of practice which contains such guidance as the Commissioner considers appropriate on the processing of data in connection with the provision of education to children within 12 months of the date on which this Act is passed.
- (2) Guidance under subsection (1) must include consideration of –
 - (a) all aspects of the provision of education including learning, school management and safeguarding;
 - (b) all types of schools and learning settings;
 - (c) the need for transparency and evidence of efficacy on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems in the provision of education;
 - (d) the collection of data for the purpose of training AI systems used in schools, including the collection of data by the Department for Education during trials of AI systems;
 - (e) the impact of profiling and automated decision-making on children’s access to education opportunities;
 - (f) the principle that children have a right to know what data about them is being generated, collected, processed, stored and shared;
 - (g) the principle that those with parental responsibility have a right to know how their children's data is being generated, collected, processed, stored and shared;
 - (h) the safety and security of children’s data;
 - (i) the need to ensure children's access to and use of counselling services and the exchange of information for safeguarding purposes are not restricted.
- (3) In preparing a code or amendments under this section, the Commissioner must have regard to –
 - (a) the fact that children are entitled to a higher standard of protection than adults with regard to their personal data as set out in the United Kingdom GDPR, and the ICO’s Age Appropriate Design code;
 - (b) the need to prioritise children's best interests and to uphold their rights under UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and General Comment 25;
 - (c) the fact that children may require different protections at different ages and stages of development;
 - (d) the need to support innovation to enhance United Kingdom children’s education and learning opportunities, including facilitating testing of novel products and supporting the certification and the development of standards;

- (e) ensuring the benefits from product and service developed using United Kingdom children's data accrue to the United Kingdom.
- (4) In preparing a code or amendments under this section, the Commissioner must consult with—
 - (a) children,
 - (b) educators,
 - (c) parents,
 - (d) persons who appear to the Commissioner to represent the interests of children,
 - (e) the AI Safety Institute, and
 - (f) the relevant Education department for each nation of the United Kingdom.
- (5) The Code applies to data processors and controllers that—
 - (a) are providing education in school or other learning settings;
 - (b) provide services or products in connection with the provision of education;
 - (c) collect children's data whilst they are learning;
 - (d) use education data, education data sets or pupil data to develop services and products;
 - (e) build, train or operate AI systems and models that impact children's learning experience or outcomes;
 - (f) are public authorities that process education data, education data sets or pupil data.
- (6) The Commissioner must prepare a report, in consultation with the EdTech industry and other stakeholders set out in subsection (4), on the steps required to develop a code of practice.
- (7) The Commissioner must begin consultation on the report in subsection (6) within 60 days of the date on which this Act is passed.
- (8) Where requested by an education service, evidence of compliance with the code of practice must be provided by relevant providers of commercial products and services in a manner that satisfies the education service's obligations under the Code.
- (9) The Commissioner must publish an audit of major EdTech providers within three months of the date on which this Act is passed.
- (10) In this section—
 - “AI” means technology enabling the programming or training of a device or software to perceive environments through the use of data, interpret data using automated processing designed to approximate cognitive abilities, and make recommendations, predictions or decisions; and includes generative AI, meaning deep or large language models able to generate text and other content based on the data on which they were trained,
 - “EdTech” means a service or product that digitise education functions including administration and management information systems, learning and assessment and safeguarding, including services or products used

- within school settings and at home on the recommendation, advice or instruction of a school,
- “education data” means personal data that forms part of an educational record,
- “education data sets” means anonymised or pseudonymised data sets that include Education Data or Pupil Data,
- “efficacy” means that the promised learning outcomes can be evidenced,
- “learning setting” means a place where children learn including schools, their home and extra-curricular learning services, for example online and in-person tutors,
- “pupil data” means personal data about a child collected whilst they are learning which does not form part of an educational record, and
- “safety and security” means that it has been adequately tested.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the ICO to publish a code of practice for educational technology within an established time frame of 12 months from when the Act is passed. It also requires the ICO to carry out a consultation and publish its ongoing audit of EdTech providers in advance of the Code's publication.

After Clause 64

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

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After Clause 64, insert the following new Clause—

“Power to make consequential provision: Wales

- (1) The Welsh Ministers may by regulations make provision that is consequential on any of the following provisions of this Act—
 - (a) section 11 (use of accommodation for deprivation of liberty);
 - (b) section 12(5) (service of documents under Part 2 of the Care Standards Act 2000);
 - (c) section 20 (ill-treatment or wilful neglect: children aged 16 and 17);
 - (d) sections 31 to 36 (children not in school).
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) may contain only provision which would be within the legislative competence of Senedd Cymru if it were contained in an Act of the Senedd.
- (3) Regulations under this section may amend, repeal or revoke provision made by or under—
 - (a) an Act or Measure of Senedd Cymru passed before this Act, or
 - (b) an Act passed or made before, or in the same session of Parliament as, this Act.
- (4) Regulations under this section are to be made by Welsh statutory instrument (see section 37A of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 (anaw 4)).

- (5) Except as provided by subsection (6), regulations made under this section are subject to the Senedd annulment procedure (see section 37E of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 (anaw 4)).
- (6) Regulations made under this section that amend, repeal or revoke provision made by or under an Act or Measure of Senedd Cymru, or an Act, are subject to the Senedd approval procedure (see section 37C of the Legislation (Wales) Act 2019 (anaw 4)).
- (7) The power to make regulations under this section includes power to make –
 - (a) supplementary, incidental, transitional or saving provision;
 - (b) different provision for different purposes or areas.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would insert a new clause into the Bill conferring power on the Welsh Ministers to make provision that is consequential on certain provisions made by the Bill in relation to matters that are within the legislative competence of Senedd Cymru.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN



After Clause 64, insert the following new Clause –

“Power to make consequential provision: Scotland

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision that is consequential on section 11 (use of accommodation for deprivation of liberty).
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) may contain only provision which would be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament if it were contained in an Act of that Parliament.
- (3) Regulations under this section may amend, repeal or revoke provision made by or under –
 - (a) an Act of the Scottish Parliament passed before this Act, or
 - (b) an Act passed or made before, or in the same session of Parliament as, this Act.
- (4) For provision about instruments containing regulations under this section, see section 27 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 10) (Scottish statutory instruments).
- (5) Except as provided by subsection (6), regulations made under this section are subject to the negative procedure (see section 28 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 10)).
- (6) Regulations made under this section that amend, repeal or revoke provision made by or under an Act of the Scottish Parliament, or an Act, are subject to the affirmative procedure (see section 29 of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 10)).
- (7) The power to make regulations under this section includes power to make –
 - (a) supplementary, incidental, transitional or saving provision;

(b) different provision for different purposes or areas.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would insert a new clause into the Bill conferring power on the Scottish Ministers to make provision that is consequential on Clause 11 of the Bill (use of accommodation for deprivation of liberty) in relation to matters that are within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament.

Clause 67

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 67, page 127, line 28, leave out “regulations or an order;” and insert “—

- “(i) regulations, or
- (ii) in relation to the amendments made to the Education Act 2002 by Schedule 3, an order;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would clarify that the reference in clause 67(1) to orders is only to orders under the Education Act 2002 (as amended by Schedule 3).

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 67, page 127, line 28, at end insert —

“(aa) section (Guidance for schools on gender questioning children);”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures another amendment in the name of Baroness Barran would take effect on the day the Act is passed.

LORD STOREY

Clause 67, page 128, line 1, leave out paragraph (g)

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★ Clause 67, page 128, line 6, after second “by” insert “Welsh”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and my amendment to Clause 67 at page 128, line 21, would change references to a “statutory instrument” containing regulations made by the Welsh Ministers to a “Welsh statutory instrument” in consequence of changes made by the Legislation (Procedure, Publication and Repeals) (Wales) Act 2025.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 67, page 128, line 9, at end insert –

- “(3A) Section 3 may not come into force until the Secretary of State has published guidance to clarify how the duties inserted into the Children Act 2003 by that section will be delivered and funded, including for non-statutory agencies.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe what capacity will be needed to manage all Section 47 cases and how this will be funded.

BARONESS BARRAN

Clause 67, page 128, line 9, at end insert –

- “(3A) Section 3 may not come into force until the Secretary of State has set out the respective responsibilities of each partner agency in securing the effective delivery of the MACPTs under the changes made to the Children Act 2004 by that section.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to probe whether the responsibility for the effectiveness of the MACPT rest with all partners and not just the local authority.

LORD BELLINGHAM

Clause 67, page 128, line 9, at end insert –

- “(3A) Section 10 may not come into force until the Secretary of State has published an evaluation of the impact, cost and effectiveness of the Regional Care Cooperatives pathfinder areas.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would delay the implementation of regional cooperation arrangements until the pilots can be fully evaluated.

BARONESS SMITH OF MALVERN

★

Clause 67, page 128, line 21, after second “by” insert “Welsh”

Member's explanatory statement

See my amendment to Clause 67 at page 128, line 6.

Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

RUNNING LIST OF ALL AMENDMENTS ON REPORT

*Tabled up to and including
7 January 2026*

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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS