

Response ID ANON-K79Z-489M-7

Submitted to Minimum service levels in education

Submitted on 2023-11-29 18:13:00

Secretary of State for Education Foreword

Introduction

Background

1 Do you agree or disagree that an education MSL should apply consistently across England, Scotland, and Wales?

Disagree (please provide detail to support your response, should you wish)

Reasons why you disagree:

MSLs are being proposed to prevent staff from striking as is their right. MSLs should be enforced by setting adequate funding levels from government. These have not been maintained since 2010.

Proposals

2 Do you agree with the settings proposed to be in and out of scope?

Disagree (please provide detail to support your response, should you wish)

Please explain why you disagree with the scope:

As stated above this is a matter for providing sufficient funding which has not been maintained in real terms since 2010.

3 Do you agree with the design principles for the MSL?

Disagree (please provide detail to support your response, should you wish)

Please expand if you disagree:

The program is flawed, taking away workers' rights when faced with an underfunded sector.

4 Do you agree with the approach to remote education?

Disagree (please provide detail to support your response, should you wish)

Disagree with the approach to remote education (expand):

Remote working is no replacement for face to face education.

5 What are the challenges around delivering remote education on strike days?

Please outline any challenges of delivering remote education on strike days:

Limited access to technology for those living in poverty and destitution.

6 Are you responding with an interest in:

All sectors

Proposal 1: Priority cohorts in schools and colleges

7 Do you agree with the vulnerable children and young people groups identified?

Disagree (please provide detail to support your response, should you wish)

Please expand on why you disagree with the vulnerable children and young people groups identified, including if we have missed any groups:

Staff have always prioritised those with additional needs, this is a false choice.

8 What impacts on a) their welfare and wellbeing and b) attainment does missing a day or more of school or college due to strike action have on vulnerable children and young people?

Please describe the impacts of missing a day or more of school/college due to strike action on vulnerable children and young people:

The overall impact on all pupils is poor because the sector remains underfunded since 2010.

9 What impacts have strikes had on exam delivery and/or students' preparation for exams and assessments?

Please describe the impacts strikes had on exam delivery and/or students' preparation for exams and assessments:

This is unlikely to be significant as staff have always tried to support pupils in this situation.

10 Do you agree with the proposal for exam groups?

Disagree (Please provide further detail if you disagree)

If you disagree or consider this would pose significant delivery challenges, please explain:

This is unlikely to be significant as staff have always tried to support pupils in this situation.

11 Which exam year students should be prioritised for attendance on strike days (please tick all that apply):

Other (please specify)

If you have selected 'Other' please expand:

None of the above.

12 Do you agree with the proposed list of critical workers?

Disagree (please explain why)

Please explain why you disagree with the proposed list of critical workers:

The issue remains moot. The aim of this proposal is to silence dissent.

13 Do you agree that, in two-parent households, both parents should be critical workers in order for a child to be in scope?

Disagree (please provide detail to support your response, should you wish)

Please expand if you disagree:

As above. The aim of this proposal is to silence dissent from staff.

14 Do you agree that children of critical workers up to, and including, year 7 only should be in scope?

Disagree (please provide detail to support your response, should you wish)

If you disagree, please provide further detail:

The aim of this proposal is to silence staff dissent.

15 [For critical worker respondents only] How easy is it to arrange alternative childcare on school strike days?

Not applicable

16 Do you agree with the three priority cohorts proposed?

Disagree (if you disagree, or believe other cohorts should be included, please state which ones and why)

If you disagree or believe other cohorts should be included, please state which ones and why:

The aim of this proposal is to silence staff dissent and not to guarantee service levels.

17 What would need to be in place to deliver this proposal? Please consider the number of pupils and students that would be covered by this MSL proposal, how many members of staff you would need and any other delivery considerations when answering this question.

If you answered yes, please expand:

As above, adequate funding for education, much of which has been wasted on academisation.

Proposal 2: a hybrid approach (all pupils in primary and priority cohorts in secondary and FE settings)

18 What is your experience of the impacts of strikes on children aged 4-7 (KS1)? If not applicable, please specify 'not applicable' in the box.

Your experience of the impacts of strikes on children aged 4-11:

Not applicable

19 What is your experience of the impacts of strikes on children aged 7-11 (KS2)? If not applicable, please specify 'not applicable' in the box.

Experience of impact on KS2:

Not applicable

20 What would need to be in place to deliver this proposal? (Please consider the number of pupils that would be covered by this MSL proposal, how many members of staff you would need, and any other delivery considerations when answering this question)

If you answered yes, please expand:

Adequate funding to prevent strikes.

21 Do you prefer proposal 1 or proposal 2?

Neither

Use of rotas for extended periods of strike action in proposal 1 and proposal 2

22 Do you agree with the use of rotas in schools and colleges during prolonged strike action?

Disagree (please provide detail to support your response, should you wish)

If you disagree, please explain why:

Rotas implies robust on line ability which is not present in pupils in poverty or destitution.

23 In relation to the use of rotas, do you think that five consecutive days of strike action is the right period of time at which to implement rotas?

Other (please specify)

Please expand on the duration of strike action before implementing rotas:

Rotas should not be used. Homework should be set covering the period.

Workforce implications for schools and colleges

24 [For employer respondents] What number or proportion of your workforce would be required in your setting to deliver these options? Please provide information on the types of staff and roles required. Please indicate 'Not applicable' if you are not an employer.

Proposal 1:

Not applicable

Proposal 2:

Not applicable

25 Please indicate which part of the survey you would like to respond to next:

Not Answered

Consultation questions

43 Are you responding to this consultation as an:

Individual

44 If you are responding as an organisation, would you prefer your response to remain confidential?

Not applicable

45 If you are responding as an organisation, are you responding as:

Not applicable

Other type of organisation (describe):

46 Are you responding to the consultation with an interest in:

Early years education, Primary phase education (5-11), Secondary phase education (11-16)

Other interest (describe):

47 If you are responding as an individual, are you responding as:

A parent or carer

Other interest (describe):

48 If you are responding as an employer (i.e. a higher education provider, school or college), how many employees does your organisation or trust have:

Not applicable

49 If you are responding as an organisation, where is your organisation based?

Not Answered

Impact of the policy

50 Are there groups of people, such as (but not limited to) those with particular protected characteristics, who would particularly benefit from the proposed minimum service levels for education services?

Groups of people who would particularly benefit from the proposed minimum service levels for education services:

None.

51 Are there particular groups of people, such as those with protected particular characteristics, who would be particularly negatively affected by the proposed minimum service levels for education services?

Groups of people who would be particularly negatively impacted by the proposed minimum service levels for education services:

The system as a whole would suffer with the imposition of measures whose some purpose is to deny dissent by striking. The issue is lack of funding.

Data Protection

52 Would you like us to keep your responses confidential?

No

Reason for confidentiality: