

Early Years Foundation Stage Reforms – consultation summary

October 2019

Link to full consultation: [Consultation document](#)

Closing date: 31 January 2020

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Background

- The early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework sets the standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. It is mandatory in all early years settings and contains three sections:
 - Section 1 – the learning and development requirements
 - Section 2 – assessment
 - Section 3 – the safeguarding and welfare requirements
- The EYFS framework includes seven areas of learning and development that shape educational programmes in early years settings.
- In October 2019, the Department for Education (DfE) launched a public consultation seeking views on changes to the statutory framework.
- The goals of the reforms are to improve outcomes for all children and reduce workload for practitioners.
- The consultation includes proposed changes to the educational programmes, the early learning goals and the EYFS profile assessment.
- Between 2018-19, revised pilot materials have been tested in a number of schools and [evaluated by the Education Endowment Foundation](#), in partnership with NatCen Social Research and Action for Children.

- In recognition of the variety of teaching approaches required to respond appropriately to the age and needs of the children being taught, the revised framework will include the definition of teaching currently in [Ofsted's Early Years Inspection Handbook](#).

Scope of the consultation

- The consultation proposes no changes to the characteristics of effective teaching and learning:
 - playing and exploring;
 - active learning;
 - creating and thinking critically.
- The terms 'prime' and 'specific' for the areas of learning remain, as do the names of the seven areas of learning.
- There are no proposals to change the 'good level of development' measure.
- The progress check at age two and the [reception baseline assessment](#) do not form part of this consultation.
- More detailed curriculum guidance is being developed separately through an update of the '[Development Matters](#)' guidance.

Key proposals

- The EYFS framework includes brief summaries of the activities that practitioners and teachers should undertake with children under each of the seven areas of learning. These 'educational programme' summaries have been revised ([page 14](#)).
- The 17 early learning goals (ELGs) define the level of progress children should be expected to have attained by the end of their reception year. The ELGs have been revised with the aim of making them clearer, more specific and easier for teachers to make accurate judgements ([page 17](#)).
- Currently, there is a statutory requirement for local authorities to externally moderate the early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) judgements. The intention is to remove this requirement in order to allow teachers to make rounded judgements about a child's development and reduce their workload. DfE are also seeking views on alternatives to statutory local authority moderation ([page 24](#)).

- There are currently three judgements teachers can make on children's attainment across each of the ELGs: 'emerging', 'expected' or 'exceeding'. The proposal is to remove the 'exceeded' criteria from the EYFSP to reduce workload and for practitioners to focus on increasing the number of children who achieve expected levels of development by the end of reception ([page 27](#)).
- The promotion of good health of children attending a setting is currently in the safeguarding and welfare requirements section of the EYFS framework. The promotion of good oral health will be included as part of this to help reduce tooth decay and hospital admissions ([page 29](#)).

Next steps

- There will be further opportunities to engage in the consultation through the [Foundation Years community](#).
- Following the consultation, the intention is to introduce the revised EYFS framework on a statutory basis from September 2021. Schools can volunteer to use the new framework from September 2020 ([page 11](#)).

About NCB

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