



driver youth trust

Joining the dots:

Have recent reforms worked for those with SEND?

Recommendations

Our Joining the Dots report reviews the implementation of the Children and Families Act (2014). The education system and the provision for SEND pupils is 'fragmented' and, as a result, the intentions of the Act are not being realised.



Our recommendations

To policy-makers and regulators:

1. Independently review how Local Authorities are delivering their statutory SEND responsibilities, including the Local Offer, in order to identify good practice and raise standards.
2. Regional School Commissioners should take responsibility for all schools; should monitor SEND Information Reports and capacity within the system; and should signpost schools to good practice and specialists who can support them.
3. The expert group on Initial Teacher Training (ITT) set up after the Carter review should ensure that its 'core content' for ITT sufficiently prepares newly qualified teachers to support SEND pupils.

To Local Authorities and sector organisations:

4. Work with SEND organisations on Local Offers to ensure that areas of weakness are identified and Local Offers are developed to be comprehensive and suitable for the needs of those with SEND.

To schools:

5. School leaders should make it clear that SEND pupils' achievement is a whole-school priority, not just the domain of specialist staff.
6. Schools should target training that is focused on teaching practice at classroom teachers and heads of department, as well as specialist staff.
7. Governing bodies should consider their expertise in the SEND area when recruiting or seek external advice when reviewing SEND spending on an annual basis

To Ofsted:

8. Ofsted can require schools to undergo a review of how Pupil Premium Funding is spent where disadvantaged pupils are not making expected progress: we suggest that inspectors should do the same for SEND pupils.
9. Ensure that all inspectors receive training on identifying SEND good practice or use specialists as part of inspection teams.

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