



Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State

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To all MPs in England

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Dear Colleagues,

The Schools White Paper

I previously announced my intention to publish a Schools White Paper in the Spring. Today, I am delighted to now share [Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child with you.](#)

This is the first new Schools White Paper since 2016, and at its heart is this Government's Levelling Up mission that by 2030, 90% of children will leave primary school having achieved the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, up from 65% in 2019. Literacy and numeracy skills are the cornerstone of a good education, unlocking further learning, employment and fulfilling experiences.

The White Paper will achieve this mission through making sure every child has an excellent teacher, delivering high standards in curriculum, behaviour and attendance, and putting targeted support in place for those who need it, all underpinned by a stronger and fairer school system.

This White Paper sets out our long-term vision for a school system that helps every child to fulfil their potential by ensuring that they receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time. It will demonstrate how our education system can deliver on the Government's priorities of building back better after the pandemic and levelling up across the country.

At the heart of these ambitions is the need for an excellent teacher for every child in classrooms across England. We know that great teachers are made not born. That is why we are delivering the single biggest programme of teacher development ever undertaken in England and investing further in the skills and futures of the professionals who are central to our mission. This includes 500,000 teacher training and development opportunities by 2024, giving all teachers and school leaders access to evidence-based training and professional development at every stage of their career.

However, great teaching does not exist in isolation. Every child should benefit from a broad, ambitious, knowledge-rich curriculum, taught by highly skilled teachers, and schools must offer a calm, safe, orderly, and supportive environment where children are keen and ready to learn. We will establish a new arms-length national curriculum body, building on the success of the Oak National Academy's work in the pandemic. This will collaborate with teachers across the country to co-create free, optional, adaptable resources to deliver a rigorous, high-quality curriculum.

I know that my children, their joy and their futures, are the most important thing in the world to me, as children are to all parents. As we can see from the latest Department research on learning loss and recovery, pupils continue to make progress. But of course there is still more to do for pupils of all ages, and particularly for disadvantaged and secondary-aged pupils. Many children need additional, targeted support to achieve their full potential - and if we are to meet our ambitions, it is imperative that every child receive the support that is right for them, as quickly as possible.

This White Paper sets out our Parent Pledge, which is a commitment from government, via schools, to families: any child that falls behind in English or maths should receive timely and evidence-based support to enable them to reach their potential. We pledge to make that a reality in every school in England, relieving parents of the worry and stress that comes from a child falling behind at school.

Alongside this support, government must ensure that the school system as a whole raises standards for children, making sure these improvements are felt fairly across England. That is why we want to spread the benefits of the best multi-academy trusts so that every child learns with the benefits of a strong, supportive family of schools.

This White Paper will deliver a fully trust-led system with a single regulatory approach, which will drive up standards, through the growth of strong trusts and the establishment of new ones, including trusts established by local authorities. This will add new capacity to the trust system, enabling maintained schools to formalise existing successful partnerships and providing an option for maintained schools that want to continue to have a relationship with the Local Authority.

I know from my business past, and my work on the vaccine rollout, that the hardest thing for any complex system is scaling it. But I know that my team and I can support the brilliant leadership that is already present in the system to deliver on this. We want to spread brilliance across England, levelling up opportunity and creating a school system where there's a clear role for every part of the system – all working together and all focused on delivering outstanding outcomes for children.

Soon everyone will see what we all know, that this Conservative Government is busy making our schools the envy of the world. We should be so proud of how far we have come, and rightly hopeful about where we are going next.

I hope you will join me in celebrating the White Paper – one that means every single child and learner gets the start in life to be the best version of themselves.



Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State for Education