

## **Chapter 13 - Education, Schools and Training**

### Overall policy context

A major change in the organisation of the relevant government ministries concerned with education and training occurred when Gordon Brown took over as Prime Minister. The brief for the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) was split between two new ministries: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), which has responsibility for pre-school education and compulsory education up to 16 and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), which takes over responsibility for Further and Higher Education and Training.

See the relevant websites:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/>

<http://www.dius.gov.uk/>

### Schools

As predicted in the original chapter policy has continued to support the development of a hybrid system of secondary schools with diverse school types: in particular the Government has encouraged the development of Specialist secondary schools and Academies. Specialist Schools operate in partnership with private sponsors and can focus on one or two of ten specialist areas: arts, business and enterprise, engineering, humanities, languages, music, science, maths and computing, sports and technology. Academies are publicly funded independent all ability schools established by sponsors from business, faith or voluntary groups.

The Government's stated aims for these developments are to continue to raise school standards.

### Higher Education

As a result of the Higher Education Act of 2004 the following developments occurred in the HE sector:

- Universities able to charge fees up to £3000
- Variable fees – though in practice most charge 3,000
- New scheme for reviewing student complaints
- HEI's able to set own fees, but must submit plans for fees to the Director of Fair Access, must also have plans for encouraging wider participation of under represented groups.
- Universities introduce bursaries to support low income students

### Training and Skills

In December 2006 Lord Leitch published the final report following his independent review of the skill needs of the UK Economy. In July 2007 DIUS published *World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills*; see the departmental website for further details: [www.dius/policy/skills.html](http://www.dius/policy/skills.html)

In November 2007 The Education and Skills Bill was published with the aim of raising the education and training leaving age to 17 by 2013 and to 18 by 2015.

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