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Labour's Charter for a National Education Service - what might this mean for school structures?

As we reported back in May in our summary of key manifesto pledges, Labour's manifesto indicated a predictable lean towards giving greater control to local authorities in State-funded schools, although it was silent on any plans for the academies programme. September's conference speech by the Shadow Education Secretary, Angela Rayner, offered some further insight into Labour's proposals.

[Read more](#)



We're All in This Together - Says the Appeal Court

"Woo hoo! School Disco tonight!" And then (apart from a few brave souls) you'd spend the next 3 hours on one side of the room trying to pluck up the courage to walk across to the other side of the room. Self-segregation: mutually enforced and the opportunity to socialise missed.

Segregation pursued by schools, however, is under scrutiny as the Court of Appeal has ruled that Al-Hijrah School, which pursued a policy of segregating pupils from Year 5 onwards (it is a 4-16 school), in the classroom, in social and extra-curricular areas, was in breach of the Equality Act 2010 (EA2010).

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Sponsorship of Overseas Teachers

Are you currently sponsoring teaching staff? We are all aware that Immigration law is ever changing and that complying with our legal duties is becoming more and more difficult. If you have already obtained your sponsorship license, you will be aware of the eligibility requirements. However, you may not yet be aware of the new requirement for **Overseas Criminal Record Checks**.

[Read more](#)

Safeguarding Even More Relevant

With the Harvey Weinstein scandal and #MeToo going worldwide, safeguarding of the powerless against the powerful sexual predator is very much a live issue. But sexual predation is not the only issue in safeguarding and things can become confused. This article provides a re-statement of first principles on schools' responsibilities.

[Read more](#)

Understanding Transgender Issues

Recent figures show that the number of children (some as young as three) referred to gender identity clinics has quadrupled over the last five years. Schools are ever more aware of their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 not to discriminate against pupils on the ground of gender reassignment. However, understanding what this term comprises – and how to discuss matters sensitively and appropriately – can be challenging.

[Read more](#)

Religious Education an Issue



A survey published by the Religious Educations Council and NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) found that a quarter of the schools polled said they do not offer the subject to all students at GCSE level (aged 14-16). Fiona Moss, an executive officer for NATRE, said too many schools were "*breaking the law*", resulting in pupils "*missing out on religious education*". Information gathered by the two organisations from the Government's workforce census under Freedom of Information requests revealed an inconsistency in the quality and provision of religious education, with increasing numbers of schools not even meeting the basic legal requirement.

[Read more](#)

Serious Incident Reporting for Academies

In our [September edition](#) we flagged the potential risks to schools from cybercrime such as "ransomware". With crime survey statistics also revealing an estimated 3.6 million cases of fraud a year, schools increasingly need to be aware of this potential threat and prepare for it. If the worst should happen, what if anything do academy trusts have to tell the ESFA; and do they also have to tell the Charity Commission?

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