



independent
schools
council

ISC POLITICAL SUMMARY

Wednesday 3rd - Tuesday 9th March 2010

1. Second reading [Lords] of the CSF Bill
2. Ed Balls, Michael Gove and Nick Clegg at the ASCL Conference
3. The Week Ahead
4. Index of Parliamentary Questions

1. Second Reading [Lords] of the Children, Schools & Families Bill

Monday 8th March

None of the peers debating the Bill on Monday offered it unqualified support (excepting the minister, Baroness Morgan of Drefelin). Clearly, two of the issues causing most concern in the House were (1) PSHE & sex education, and; (2) home education - most of the peers mentioned one if not both.

Many objected to merely 'aspirational' clauses in the Bill that would be hugely difficult to enforce, pointing in particular to pupil and parent guarantees. Baroness Verma pointed quickly to the fact that while nobody could object to a law enshrining 'good behaviour, strong discipline, order and safety', the Government have already had to introduce Clause 1(8) to prevent increased litigation against schools where these 'guarantees' cannot be delivered.

There was criticism of clauses concerning home schooling from several peers, who felt that the Bill was too heavy-handed and had 'maximised ill will' towards home educators. Lord Soley, however, defended the Bill on the grounds that the regulatory framework for home education in the UK would still be less rigorous than most European countries if the Bill were passed as it is.

A transcript of the debate is available in Hansard, here:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/text/100308-0011.htm#10030854000239>

2. Speeches at the ASCL Conference

6th and 7th March

Ed Balls, Michael Gove and Nick Clegg all spoke at the ASCL conference over the weekend (the Secretary of State for the third time), outlining their plans for the future.

The ASCL provides copies of all three speeches on its website:

Ed Balls -

<http://www.ascl.org.uk/MainWebSite/Resources/Document/Ed%20Balls%20speech%20-%20Annual%20Conference%202010.pdf>

Michael Gove -

<http://www.ascl.org.uk/MainWebSite/Resources/Document/Michael%20Gove%20speech%20-%20Annual%20Conference%202010.pdf>

Nick Clegg -

<http://www.ascl.org.uk/MainWebSite/Resources/Document/Nick%20Clegg%20speech%20-%20Annual%20Conference%202010.pdf>

The Week Ahead

Wednesday 10th March

09:30, Wilson Room, Portcullis House

Children, Schools and Families (CSF) Select Committee

From Baker to Balls: the foundations of the education system [Oral evidence session]

With evidence from: Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families

Thursday 11th

11:00

CSF Select Committee

**Government Response to 2nd Report on The Review of Elective Home Education HC
423: 2nd Special Report of Session 2009-10** [Publication]

Index of Parliamentary Questions 24/02/10 - 02/03/10

Department
Topic

Link

Monday 8th

[Oral] DCSF:

Wednesday 3rd March

Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF):

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Departmental Official Hospitality [1293W](#)

Departmental Official Hospitality [1293W](#)

Departmental Public Expenditure [1294W](#)

Departmental Public Relations [1294W](#)

Departmental Theft [1295W](#)

Education: International Cooperation [1295W](#)

Home Education [1296W](#)

Primary Education [1296W](#)

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Schools: Anti-Semitism [1298W](#)

Schools: Flooding [1298W](#)

Schools: Police [1299W](#)

Schools: Transport [1299W](#)

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Sports: Primary Education [1300W](#)

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Thursday 4th

DCSF:

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Children: Day Care [1386W](#)

Children's Centres: South West [1387W](#)

Class Sizes: Salford [1387W](#)

Pre-school Education: Leeds [1387W](#)

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Sports: Primary Education [1393W](#)

Friday 5th

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Early Intervention Green Paper [17](#)

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Primary Schools (Literacy) [8](#)

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Secondary Schools (Attainment) [4](#)

Secondary Schools (Copeland) [12](#)

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Building Schools for the Future [36W](#)

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Discipline [35W](#)

Education: Charities [38W](#)

Free School Meals [35W](#)

GCSE: Poole [38W](#)

National Curriculum Tests [38W](#)

NEETs [37W](#)

Pearson Group [41W](#)

Personal Social and Health Education [41W](#)

Pupils: Per Capita Costs [42W](#)

Schools: Northampton [47W](#)

Secondary Schools: Halton [36W](#)

UK Council for Child Internet Safety [36W](#)

Home Office:

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students [119W](#)

Tuesday 9th

DCSF:

Education: International Cooperation [200W](#)

Educational Institutions: Tower Hamlets

Faith Schools: Equality

Parenting Orders

[201W](#)

[201W](#)

[202W](#)

Personal Social and Health Education

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Schools: Fires

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Teachers: Training

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Truancy

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Home Office:

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

[222W](#)