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The relevant timeline for education developments and changes which had a direct or indirect effect on sports provision and school and community use on school sites: 1964-2015 with the permission of Derek Gillard

1964-1970 : The golden age?

16 October 1964 Harold Wilson (Labour)

1965 DES Circular 10/65 The organisation of secondary education (12 July): requested LEAs to submit plans for comprehensivisation. (See also Circulars 10/70 and 4/74).

1967 Schools Council Society and the Young School Leaver (Working Paper No. 11), produced in preparation for the raising of the school leaving age to sixteen.

1968 Education Act (10 April): laid down rules about changing the character of a school (e.g. to comprehensive).

1970-1974 : Applying the brakes 19 June 1970 Ted Heath (Conservative)

1970 DES Circular 10/70 The organisation of secondary education (30 June): withdrew Labour's Circular 10/65 (see above) and allowed LEAs to decide whether to proceed with plans for comprehensivisation. (Withdrawn by Circular 4/74 - see below).

1971 DES Circular 8/71 Raising of the school leaving age to 16 (24 August): set out arrangements for the raising of the school leaving age to 16 in September 1972.

1974-1979 : Progressivism under attack 4 March 1974 Harold Wilson (Labour)

1974 DES Circular 4/74 The organisation of secondary education (16 April): reinstated the request (made in Circular 10/65 and cancelled in 10/70) that LEAs should submit plans for comprehensivisation.

1974 Houghton Report - Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the pay of Non-University Teachers (December): recommended substantial pay increases for teachers.

5 April 1976 Jim Callaghan (Labour)

1976 Education Act (22 November): gave the Secretary of State the power to ask LEAs to plan for non-selective (i.e. comprehensive) secondary education (repealed by the Conservatives in 1979).

1976 DES Circular 11/76 Education Act 1976 (25 November): explained that local authorities which had not submitted schemes for comprehensive reorganisation would now be expected to do so.

1976 DES Circular 12/76 Education Act 1976: Support by Local Education Authorities of Education in Non-Maintained Schools (25 November): required arrangements to be 'consistent with the Government's policy of abolishing selection for secondary education'.

1979-1990 Thatcher and the New Right

4 May 1979 Margaret Thatcher (Conservative)

1979 Education Act (26 July): allowed LEAs to retain selective secondary schools by repealing Labour's 1976 Education Act.

1984-9 Curriculum Matters: A series of 17 discussion documents from HMI: No. 16 Physical education (1989)

1987 Local management of schools (LMS) announced by Education Minister Baker at Secondary Heads Association Conference (April).

1988 Education Reform Act (29 July): major act establishing the National Curriculum and associated testing regime, local management of schools (LMS), open enrolment, opting out (Grant-maintained status), abolition of the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) etc.

1990-1997 : John Major: more of the same 28 November 1990 John Major (Conservative)

1992 Further and Higher Education Act (6 March): removed further education and sixth form colleges from LEA control and established Further Education Funding Councils (FEFCs); allowed polytechnics to apply for university status; unified the funding of higher education under the Higher Education Funding Councils (HEFCs); introduced competition for funding between institutions; abolished the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA).

1992 Education (Schools) Act (16 March): provided for the creation of Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) to oversee the inspection of schools (though the name 'Ofsted' did not appear in the Act).

1997-2007 Tony Blair and New Labour 2 May 1997 Tony Blair ('New Labour')

2000 Specialist colleges (including sports colleges): scheme announced in January by Tony Blair.

2000 City academies (15 March): David Blunkett announced the government's intention to create a network of academies - publicly-funded schools with private sponsors.

2004 Building Schools for the Future: ambitious schools rebuilding programme launched by Tony Blair in February.

2004 Higher Education Act (1 July): allowed universities to charge fees of up to £3,000 a year.

2004 DfES Building Bulletin 98: Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects.

2007 NAO Report The Academies Programme (23 February): National Audit Office review of the performance and cost of academies.

2007-2010 Brown

27 June 2007 Gordon Brown (Labour)

2007 CESC Report Sustainable Schools: Are we building schools for the future? (9 August): report of the Commons Education Select Committee.

2007 CPAC The Academies programme (18 October): report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee argued that academies were 'a relatively costly means of tackling low attainment'.

2010-2015

11 May 2010 David Cameron (Conservative) - Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition

2013 CPAC Department for Education: Managing the expansion of the Academies Programme (15 April): Commons Public Accounts Committee report criticising the DfE for its management of the academies programme.

2013 CESC School sport following London 2012: No more political football (22 July): report of the Commons Education Select Committee urged schools to offer both competitive and non-competitive sporting opportunities to their pupils.