

The extended schools elite

The fact the government looked unlikely to meet its target of 6,000 schools offering extended services by the end of September comes as no surprise to us (*Children Now*, 15 August-4 September).

Many local authorities have been weighing up whether certain after-school clubs are worth funding simply because they have targets to meet. It can take years to make a club in a deprived area sustainable and, in the meantime, there is a need to subsidise parents in those areas.

An elite situation is occurring where the more affluent people are benefiting from the extended schools agenda because they can afford it, while the less well-off are missing out. Unless the funding is diverted to areas of deprivation, extended schools services will

never be sustainable and the government will fail to reach its target.
Amanda Argent, chief executive, Schoolfriend etc

National teaching awards

Everyone remembers their best teachers – they play a vital role in society, helping shape the lives of our young people.

The Teaching Awards, a kite mark for teachers across the UK, was founded in 1998 and has been sponsored by BT for six years.

BT provides support in-kind and £100,000 cash for the Primary School Teacher of the Year Award at the annual Teaching Awards. We would encourage readers to nominate an outstanding teacher in their area by visiting www.teachingawards.com.
Dave Hancock, head of education and volunteering, BT