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Provide for a duty on schools to run open days during school holidays and for free school meals to be provided for eligible pupils at the open days.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 School holiday open days

- (1) The Secretary of State must provide by regulations for schools in England with deprived postcodes in their catchment areas to run open days during school holidays.
- (2) Regulations made under subsection (1) must provide for external organisations including—
 - (a) local authorities;
 - (b) local community centres and groups;
 - (c) any other organisations the school deems appropriate; and
 - (d) any other organisations the Secretary of State deems appropriate, to be able to facilitate open day activities in partnership with a school.
- (3) Regulations made under subsection (1) must provide for—
 - (a) open days to be held no fewer than three times per week during a school holiday; and
 - (b) an open day to run for at least five consecutive hours on any day on which one is held.
- (4) Regulations made under subsection (1) must provide for the cost of open days under this Act to be defrayed by pupils' parents or guardians, schools, local authorities or the Secretary of State out of money provided by Parliament.
- (5) The Secretary of State must make regulations under subsection (1) within one year of this Act coming into force.

2 Provision for free school meals during school holiday open days

In section 512 (local authority functions concerning provision of meals, etc.) of the Education Act 1996, in subsection (6), after the first “day” insert “or school holiday open day”.

3 Interpretation, transitional provision and regulations

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(1) In this Act—

“deprived postcodes” means the most deprived 20% of postcodes as classified in the English indices of deprivation;

“open days” means days during a school holiday in which the school is open to its registered pupils free of charge, staffed and providing activities for attendees, including outdoor activities;

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“pupil” has the meaning given by section 3(1) of the Education Act 1996;

“school” has the meaning given by section 4 of the Education Act 1996;

“school holiday” means a period of two weeks or more in which a school does not have a session, including but not limited to—

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(a) between the end of one term and the commencement of the next, and

(b) between the end of one academic year and the commencement of the next.

(2) The Secretary of State may by regulations make consequential, incidental, supplemental, transitional or saving provision for the purposes of, or in connection with, giving full effect to a provision of this section.

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(3) Regulations under this Act are to be made by statutory instrument.

(4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this Act may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

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4 Extent, commencement and short title

(1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.

(2) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.

(3) This Act may be cited as the School Holiday Open Days Act 2020.

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School Holiday Open Days Bill [HL]

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Baroness D'Souza

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