

General Election 2019: Summary of education-focused commitments in the manifestos of the main UK-wide parties

This document attempts to capture the school and college-focused commitments made in the four parties' manifestos. It is divided up into the following sections, in order to make it easier to compare these commitments:

- early years and childcare
- primary and secondary schools, further sub-divided into commitments focused on:
 - funding
 - recruitment, retention, pay and professional development
 - behaviour, discipline and wellbeing
 - assessment, accountability and intervention
 - curriculum
 - structures
- post-16, further education, training and skills

It includes commitments on higher education where they also have implications for schools and colleges.

The document usually quotes directly from the manifestos, occasionally summarising particularly lengthy sections and removing value judgements about the record or policies of other parties. In the sections on funding, pay and post-16 education we have added as footnotes extra information from previous government announcements and costings from Labour's 'grey book' which accompanies its manifesto.

	Conservative Party	Labour Party	Liberal Democrat Party	Green Party
Early years and childcare	Establish a new £1 billion fund to help create more high quality, affordable childcare, including before and after school and during the school holidays.	Reverse cuts to Sure Start and create a new service, Sure Start Plus. Radically reform early years provision, with a two-term vision to make high-quality early years education available for every child. Within five years, all 2, 3 and 4-year-olds will be entitled to 30 hours of free preschool	Offer free, high-quality childcare for every child aged two to four and children aged between nine and 24 months where their parents or guardians are in work: 35 hours a week, 48 weeks a year. Increase the funding for these free hours to cover the actual cost of nursery provision.	Formal education will start at 6. Those under 6 will remain in early years education, with a focus on play-based learning and access to nature.

			<p>education per week and access to additional hours at affordable, subsidised rates staggered with incomes.</p> <p>Work to extend childcare provision for 1-year-olds and to ensure that childcare provision accommodates the working patterns of all parents</p> <p>Transition to a qualified, graduate-led workforce; offer free training to the workforce to attain these qualifications on the job.</p> <p>Fund providers directly.</p> <p>Recruit nearly 150,000 additional early years staff, including SENCOs.</p> <p>Introduce a national pay scale for early years staff.</p>	<p>Invest £1 billion a year in Children's Centres.</p> <p>Triple the Early Years Pupil Premium (to £1,000).</p> <p>Require all Early Years settings to have a training programme for staff, with the majority of staff working with children to have a relevant Early Years qualification or be working towards one.</p> <p>In the long run, each Early Years setting should have at least one person qualified to graduate level.</p>	
Primary and secondary schools	Funding	An extra £14 billion ¹ in funding for schools - at least £5,000 a year for each secondary school pupil and £4,000 for each primary school pupil. This includes £780 million in	<p>A £150 billion Social Transformation Fund, to replacing, upgrading and expanding schools.</p> <p>Increase long-term funding.²</p>	<p>Invest £130 billion in infrastructure, to include building schools.</p> <p>Reverse cuts to school funding, allowing schools to employ an extra 20,000 teachers and</p>	<p>Increase funding by at least £4 billion per year.</p> <p>Focus funding to reduce class sizes</p>

¹ The funding package for 5-16 schools announced in August is: an additional £2.6bn for 2020/21; £4.8bn for 21/22; and £7.1bn for 22/23 compared to 19/20. This will bring the schools budget to £52.2bn in 22/23. The figure of £14bn is based on adding up these figures to give total spend over three years.

² Labour proposes to increase the 5-16 schools budget as follows: an additional £6bn in 2020/21; £8.3bn in 21/22; and £10.5bn in 22/23. This will bring the schools budget to £55.5bn in 22/23.

		<p>new funding to support children with Special Educational Needs next year.</p> <p>Offer an 'arts premium' to secondary schools to fund enriching activities for all pupils.</p> <p>Invest in primary school PE teaching and ensure that it is being properly delivered and to promote physical literacy and competitive sport.</p>	<p>Introduce a fairer funding formula that leaves no child worse off.</p> <p>Invest to upgrade schools that have fallen into disrepair.</p> <p>Ensure pupils are taught by a qualified teacher, that every school is open for a full five days a week, and maximum class sizes of 30 for all primary school children</p> <p>Fund more non-contact time for teachers to prepare and plan.</p> <p>Provide the necessary funding for children with SEND.</p> <p>Introduce an Arts Pupil Premium to fund arts education for every primary school child.</p> <p>Introduce free school meals for all primary school children, encourage breakfast clubs, and tackle the cost of school uniforms.</p> <p>Take back all PFI contracts over time.</p>	<p>reduce class sizes, restoring them to 2015 levels per pupil with an emergency cash injection.</p> <p>Invest to clear the backlog of repairs to school and college buildings.</p> <p>Allocate additional cash to local authorities to halve the amount that schools pay towards the cost of a child's Education Health and Care Plan.</p> <p>Extend free school meals to all children in primary education and to all secondary school children whose families receive Universal Credit, as well as promoting school breakfast clubs.</p>	<p>down to under 20 in the long term.</p>
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	Recruitment, retention, pay and professional development	<p>Raise teachers' starting salaries to £30,000.³</p>	<p>Restore public sector pay to at least pre-financial crisis levels (in real terms), by delivering year-on-year above-inflation pay rises, starting with a 5% increase.⁴</p> <p>Introduce a new teacher supply service.</p> <p>Bring back the School Support Staff Negotiating Body and national pay settlements for teachers.</p>	<p>Raise the starting salary for teachers to £30,000 and increase all teachers' pay by at least three per cent per year throughout the parliament.</p> <p>Introduce a clear and properly funded entitlement to genuinely high-quality professional development for all teachers – rising to the level of 50 hours per year by 2025.</p> <p>Give extra training to teachers who are required to teach subjects at secondary level where they themselves do not have a post A-level qualification.</p>	
	Behaviour, discipline and wellbeing	<p>Back heads and teachers on discipline. Expand our programme to help schools with the worst behaviour learn from the best – and back heads to use exclusions.</p> <p>Continue to help teachers tackle bullying, including homophobic bullying.</p>		<p>Ensure that all teaching staff have the training to identify mental health issues and that schools provide immediate access for pupil support and counselling.</p> <p>Ensure there is a specific individual responsible for mental health in schools.</p> <p>Give schools a statutory duty to promote the wellbeing of their pupils as part of the inspection framework.</p>	<p>Make sure all children get at least a half-day equivalent of sports in school and encourage both the use of schools sports facilities by the community and participation in regional and national sporting events by our young people.</p>

³ The proposal announced in September is to increase starting salaries for new teachers to £30,000 by 22/23. This will be funded from the £7.1bn of additional funding for schools.

⁴ Labour has allocated an extra £5.3bn to 'public sector pay catch up' by 23/24. School spending plans exclude the Department for Education's allocation of this funding.

				<p>Tackle bullying in schools, including bullying on the basis of gender, sexuality, gender identity, or gender expression, by promoting pastoral leadership in schools and delivering high-quality sex and relationships education.</p> <p>Require inclusive school uniform policies that are gender-neutral and flexible enough to suit different budgets.</p> <p>Challenge gender stereotyping and early sexualisation, working with schools to promote positive body image and break down outdated perceptions of gender appropriateness of particular academic subjects.</p> <p>Include teaching about how to use social media responsibly in our 'curriculum for life' and provide advice and support for parents on how to help their children protect themselves online.</p>	
	Assessment, accountability and intervention	<p>We believe that Ofsted inspection serves a valuable purpose not just in improving standards but in improving behaviour.</p> <p>We will intervene in schools where there is</p>	<p>Scrap Key Stage 1 and 2 SATs and baseline assessments, and refocus assessment on supporting pupil progress.</p> <p>Replace Ofsted and transfer responsibility for inspections to</p>	<p>Scrap existing mandatory SATs and replace them with a formal, moderated teacher assessment at the end of each phase and some lighter-touch testing.</p> <p>Replace existing government performance tables with a broader set of indicators.</p>	<p>Free schools from centrally imposed testing regimes, OFSTED inspections, rigid national curriculum and league tables.</p>

		entrenched underperformance.	<p>a new body, designed to drive school improvement.</p> <p>Take action to end 'off-rolling' by making schools accountable for the outcomes of pupils who leave their rolls.</p>	<p>Replace Ofsted with a new HM Inspector of Schools. Inspections should take place every three years and should consider a broader range of factors including the social and emotional development of children, and the wellbeing of staff and pupils. Independent schools should be subject to the same inspection regime.</p> <p>Abolish the English Baccalaureate as a performance measure.</p>	<p>Replace OFSTED with a collaborative system of assessing and supporting schools locally.</p>
	Curriculum		<p>Review the curriculum to ensure that it enriches students and covers subjects such as black history and continues to teach issues like the Holocaust.</p> <p>Reform careers advice.</p>	<p>Introduce a 'curriculum for life' in all state-funded schools to include PSHE, financial literacy environmental awareness, first aid and emergency lifesaving skills, mental health education, citizenship and age-appropriate Relationships and Sex Education (including teaching about sexual consent, LGBT+ relationships, and issues surrounding explicit images and content).</p> <p>Establish an independent body of education experts to oversee any future curriculum changes.</p> <p>Improve the quality of vocational education.</p> <p>Improve careers advice and links with employers.</p>	<p>Introduce an English Climate Emergency Education Act to support schools to teach young people about the urgency, severity and scientific basis of the climate and environmental crises, and to ensure youth voices are heard on climate issues.</p> <p>Enable more outdoor lessons, where children will learn more about nature, animals and the environment, and a new Nature GCSE.</p>

				Teach critical thinking, verbal reasoning and creativity.	Restore arts and music education in all state schools.
	Structures	<p>Continue to support innovation, like our successful maths schools.</p> <p>Expand 'alternative provision' schools for those who have been excluded.</p> <p>Deliver more school places for children with complex SEN.</p> <p>Continue to ensure that parents can choose the schools that best suit their children and best prepare them for the future.</p> <p>Continue to build more free schools.</p>	<p>Bring free schools and academies back under control of parents, teachers and local communities. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget and day-to-day decisions will be transferred back to schools, overseen by an accountable governing body with elected representatives Responsibility for delivery of education and support for young people will sit with local authorities, they will manage admissions and have responsibility for school places, including the power to open schools Oversight and coordination, including of continuous, peer-to-peer school improvement modelled on the London Challenge, will be carried out by regional offices of the NES. All schools will be subject to a common rulebook, set out in legislation. <p>Properly regulate all education providers and reform alternative provision (AP).</p>	<p>Give local authorities with responsibility for education the powers and resources to act as Strategic Education Authorities for their area, including responsibility for places planning, exclusions, administering admissions including in-year admissions, and SEND functions.</p> <p>Require MATs to undergo external inspection.</p> <p>Allow local authorities to open new Community Schools where needed.</p> <p>Oppose any future expansion of grammar schools.</p> <p>Devolve all capital funding for new school spaces to local authorities.</p>	<p>End academisation and bring all schools back into the control of democratically elected local authorities.</p> <p>Empower local authorities with the responsibility and accountability for education within their communities.</p> <p>Create a fully inclusive education system, where children with SEN are able to access their local school and are fully supported in that school. This means ensuring accessible buildings, an inclusive curriculum and the provision of specially trained teachers across the school system. Specialist schools will be retained, for when children and parents would prefer that option.</p>

			Close the tax loopholes enjoyed by elite private schools and use that money to improve the lives of all children; ask the Social Justice Commission to advise on integrating private schools and creating a comprehensive education system.		Remove charitable status from private schools and charge full VAT on fees. The private school sector will be subject to regular independent audits, to ensure private schools improve accessibility and pay their taxes in full.
Post-16, further education, training and skills⁵		<p>Require significant numbers of new UK apprentices for all big new infrastructure projects.</p> <p>Create a new National Skills Fund worth £3 billion over the next Parliament. This fund will provide matching funding for individuals and SMEs for high-quality education and training.</p> <p>We are investing almost £2 billion to upgrade the entire further education college estate.</p> <p>We'll have 20 Institutes of Technology, which connect high-quality teaching in science,</p>	<p>Through our Green Industrial Revolution, create at least one million well-paid, unionised jobs in the UK; train people in the skills they need to access these jobs of the future.</p> <p>Make it easier for employers to spend the apprenticeship levy by allowing it to be used for a wider range of accredited training.</p> <p>Launch a Climate Apprenticeship programme.</p> <p>Align the base rate of per-pupil funding in post-16 education with Key Stage 4 and provide dedicated capital funding.</p> <p>Bring back the Education Maintenance Allowance.</p>	<p>Introduce new Skills Wallets for every adult in England, giving them £10,000 to spend on education and training throughout their lives.</p> <p>Implement a major expansion of high-quality apprenticeships including Higher Apprenticeships.</p> <p>Develop a national skills strategy for key sectors, including zero-carbon technologies, to help match skills and people; use the new Skills Wallets to allow people to retrain and upskill when they need to.</p> <p>Expand the apprenticeship levy into a wider 'Skills and Training Levy' to help prepare the UK's workforce for the economic</p>	<p>Revive the further education sector to provide a wider choice of academic and vocational learning.</p> <p>Raise the funding rate for 16–17-year-olds, followed by an annual rise in line with inflation, at the same time as introducing a capital expansion fund for sixth form providers.</p> <p>Increase funding for adult education, creating a range of new adult education programmes for learners to access. These programmes</p>

⁵ On post-16 funding: in August, the government announced £400m additional funding for 16-19 education in 2020/21. The base rate for 16-18 year-old students will increase from £4,000 to £4,188.

	<p>technology, engineering and maths to business and industry.</p> <p>Ensure that £500 million of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is used to give disadvantaged people the skills they need to make a success of life.</p> <p>Consider the recommendations of the Augar Review on tuition fee levels, the balance of funding between universities, further education and apprenticeships and adult learning.</p>	<p>Give everyone a free lifelong entitlement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training up to Level 3 • Six years training at Levels 4-6, with maintenance grants for disadvantaged learners. <p>Introduce additional entitlements for workers in industries that are significantly affected by industrial transition.</p> <p>Give employers a role in co-design and co-production of qualifications.</p> <p>Restore funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses.</p> <p>Restore and expand the Union Learning Fund, giving workers the right to accrue paid time off for education and training.</p> <p>Incorporate further and adult education into a single national system of regulation.</p> <p>Introduce post-qualification admissions to higher education.</p>	<p>challenges ahead with 25 per cent of the funds raised by the levy going into a 'Social Mobility Fund' targeted at areas with the greatest skill needs.</p> <p>Develop National Colleges as national centres of expertise for key sectors, such as renewable energy, to deliver the high-level vocational skills that businesses need.</p> <p>Identify and seek to solve skills gaps such as the lack of advanced technicians by expanding higher vocational training like foundation degrees, Higher National Diplomas, Higher National Certificates and Higher Apprenticeships.</p> <p>Invest an extra £1 billion in Further Education funding, including by refunding colleges for the VAT they pay.</p> <p>Introduce a 'Young People's Premium', based on the same eligibility criteria as the Pupil Premium, but with a portion of it paid directly to the young person aged 16-18.</p>	<p>will be integrated with Green New Deal training projects.</p>
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