

Education Manifestoes

This paper provides a summary of the three main political parties' positions on education matters relevant to E4E's work.

Links to the full manifestoes are given below.

Labour – www.labour.org.uk/manifesto

Pupils

- Give pupils legal guarantees of a quality education, including extra maths and English tuition for all 7 to 11 year olds who fall behind, via the 'Every Child a Reader' and '**Every Child Counts**' schemes.
- Raise the education and training **leaving age to 18**.

Teachers

- Extend **Teach First** to attract more of the best graduates into teaching, including primary.
- Introduce a '**license to practise**' and a right to **CPD** for teachers.
- £10k '**golden handcuffs**' to attract the best teachers into the most challenging schools

Qualifications and Curriculum

- Review of the qualifications system in 2013. **Ofqual** to continue.
- **Primary curriculum** reforms to create more flexibility for teachers to offer a broad, challenging and engaging education.

Accountability

- **School Report Cards** to give information on standards, levels of parental satisfaction and behaviour and bullying. Consult on giving every school an overall grade for its performance.

Other

- A 'traffic-light' grading system for courses on offer in FE colleges, to provide clearer information on quality.
- Priority in expansion of HE student places will be given to STEM degrees (amongst others).

Conservative -

http://media.conservatives.s3.amazonaws.com/manifesto/cpmanifesto2010_lowres.pdf

Teachers

- Raise the entry requirement for taxpayer-funded primary school teacher training.
- Expect new graduates to have at least a **2.2** in their degree in order to qualify for state-funded teacher training. **Pay off student loans for top Maths and Science graduates** for as long as they remain teachers, by redirecting some of the current teacher training budget.
- Expand **Teach First**, and introduce Teach Now for people looking to change career and Troops to Teachers for ex-service personnel.

Qualifications and Curriculum

- Reform the **National Curriculum** to make it more challenging and based on evidence about what knowledge can be mastered by children at different ages. Organise the primary curriculum around subjects like Maths, Science and History. Encourage setting so those who are struggling can get extra help and the most able are stretched.
- **Make other exams more robust** by giving universities and academics more say over their form and content.
- Allow state schools to offer **IGCSE** etc.
- Establish a free online database of exam papers and marking schemes.

Accountability

- **Keep KS2 tests and league tables**, and reform them to make them more rigorous.
- **Ofsted** to adopt a more rigorous and targeted inspection regime, reporting on performance only in the core areas related to teaching and learning. Failing schools to be inspected more often.

Other

- Allow all schools to seek academy status.

Liberal Democrats -

http://network.libdems.org.uk/manifesto2010/libdem_manifesto_2010.pdf

Pupils

- Cut class sizes, attract the best teachers, offer extra one-to-one tuition and provide for after-school and holiday support.

Teachers

- Increase GTP and expand **Teach First**.
- Improve training for existing teachers over the course of their careers to keep them up to date with best practice.
- Science at KS4 and above to be taught by appropriately qualified teachers.
- Financial freedom for schools to attract and retain excellent teachers.

Qualifications and Curriculum

- Axe the National Curriculum and replace with a slimmed down 'Minimum Curriculum Entitlement'.
- Scale back KS2 tests and use teacher assessment.
- Create a General Diploma to bring GCSEs, A-levels and high quality vocational courses together.
- Abolish QCDA, Ofqual, and Ofsted and replace with a fully independent Educational Standards Authority to restore confidence in standards. The ESA would oversee the examinations system, school inspection and accountability, and the curriculum.

Accountability

- Reform league tables to give more meaningful information on a school's performance. Less focus on the C-grade borderline.
- Introduce an Education Freedom Act banning politicians from getting involved in the day-to-day running of schools. Cut the size of the DCSF and focus its activities on a few strategic priorities.

Other

- Seek to close the funding gap between pupils in sixth forms and FE.
- Scrap the Government's plan to criminalise those who leave education between ages 16 and 18.

- Replace academies with a model of 'Sponsor-Managed Schools', commissioned by and accountable to local authorities rather than Whitehall.
- Abolish the Skills Funding Agency and HEFCE and replace with a single Council for Adult Skills and Higher Education.
- Scrap the 50% HE participation target and focus effort instead on a balance of college education, vocational training and apprenticeships.