

RSB Policy Briefing

General Election 2017 Education and Science Policies

The education priorities and science priorities identified in the 2017 general election manifestos. As education is a devolved issue, there is additional information specific to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Labour

Science

- Ensure that 60% of the UK's energy comes from zero-carbon or renewable sources by 2030.
- Create an innovation nation with the highest opportunity of high-skilled jobs in the organisation and development by 2030. We will meet the OECD target of 3% of GDP spent on research and development by 2030.
- To harness the economic potential of new technologies and science, we will complete the Science vale transport arc, from Oxford to Cambridge through Milton Keynes.
- Our stewardship of the environment needs to be founded on sound principles and based on scientific assessments. We will establish a science innovation fund, working with farmers and fisheries that will include support for our small scale fishing fleet.
- We will invest in new public-health driven research and development to find effective and affordable treatments for diseases in developing world, including fighting TB, malaria, HIV/AIDS and neglected tropical diseases.
- Research and development – by committing extra research investment.
- Labour will also retain access to Euratom, to allow continued trade of fissile material with access and collaboration over research vital to our nuclear industry.
- A Labour government will ensure that the UK maintains our leading research role by seeking to stay part of Horizon2020 and its successor programmes and by welcoming research staff to the UK. We will seek to maintain membership of (or equivalent relationships with) European organisations which offer benefits to the UK such as Eurotom and the European Medicines Agency. We will seek to ensure that Britain remains part of the Erasmus scheme so that British students have the same educational opportunities after we leave the EU.

Education

- Labour will create a unified National Education Service (NES) for England to move towards cradle-to-grave learning that is free at the point of use.

Early Years

- Labour would seek to roll out educational provision for early years children as part of a National Education Service
- transition to a system of high-quality childcare places in mixed environments with direct government subsidy

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- Maintain current commitments on free hours and make significant capital investment
- Phase in subsidised provision on top of free-hour entitlements
- Transition to a qualified, graduate-led workforce
- Extend the 30 free hours to all two-year-olds, and move towards making some childcare available for one-year-olds and extending maternity pay to 12 months

Schools

- Opposed to new free schools and grammar schools
- Opposed to forced academisation
- Introduce a fairer funding formula that leaves no school worse off, while redressing the historical underfunding of certain schools
- Drive up standards
- Accountability – making sure schools serve the public interest
- Inclusion – wide choice of courses and qualifications, reducing the attainment gap
- Reducing class sizes to less than 30 for 5,6 & 7 year olds
- Free school meals for all primary school children
- No baseline assessments – commission to look at curriculum and assessment
- Scrap apprenticeship levy for schools
- Extend school counselling to improve children's mental health
- Strategy for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Teachers

- End public sector pay cap
- Give teachers more direct involvement in the curriculum
- Reduce monitoring and bureaucracy – to address teacher workload
- Consult on teacher sabbaticals and placements with industry
- Reintroduce Schools Support Staff Negotiating Body and National Pay Settlements for teachers

Skills

- Devolve the responsibility for skills

Further and Adult Education

- Free lifelong education in FE colleges – everyone can upskill or retrain at any point
- Abandon conservative plans for new technical colleges and redirect funding to increase teacher numbers in FE.
- Support Sainsbury review – want vocational routes to incorporate the services sector.
- Better careers advice
- More funding for 16-18 year olds
- Restore Education Maintenance Allowance
- FE courses free at point of use

- Increase quality in FE
- Improve curriculum breadth
- Target all teaching staff in FE to have a teaching qualification within 5 years.
- Increase investment to deliver T-levels

Apprenticeships

- Supports the apprenticeship levy
- Target to double number of completed apprenticeships at NVQ level 3 by 2022
- Allow levy to be used for pre-apprentice programmes
- Trade union reps in governance for the Institute of Apprenticeships
- Protect the £440million funding for small and medium sized employers
- Targets to increase apprenticeships for underrepresented groups
- Commission on lifelong learning to integrate further and higher education

Higher Education

- Reintroduce maintenance grants
- Abolish university tuition fees
- We will seek to ensure that Britain remains part of the Erasmus scheme so that British students have the same educational opportunities after we leave the EU
- UK maintains our leading research role by seeking to stay part of Horizon 2020 and its successor programmes and by welcoming research staff
- Labour welcomes international students who benefit and strengthen our education sector, generating more than £25 billion for the British economy and significantly boosting regional jobs and local businesses. They are not permanent residents and we will not include them in immigration numbers.