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# WHAT THE MANIFESTOS SAY 2017

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## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION



# MANIFESTO POLICY PROPOSALS

## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

This document sets out the key commitments on children, young people and education in the 2017 Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, UKIP and Green national manifestos.

 CONSERVATIVE PARTY MANIFESTO  
<https://www.conservatives.com/manifesto>

 LABOUR PARTY MANIFESTO  
[www.labour.org.uk/manifesto2017](http://www.labour.org.uk/manifesto2017)

 LIBERAL DEMOCRAT PARTY MANIFESTO  
[www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto](http://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto)

 UKIP MANIFESTO  
[www.ukip.org/manifesto2017](http://www.ukip.org/manifesto2017)

 GREEN PARTY MANIFESTO  
<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/green-guarantee>



## Early years and childcare

### ■ CONSERVATIVES

- Provide seed funding for schemes to recruit older professionals to public service from other sectors, including those returning to the workplace having cared for children. (p43)
- No further radical welfare reform in this Parliament. (p54)
- Take steps to improve take-up of shared parental leave and help companies provide more flexible work environments. (p58)
- Support companies to take on parents and carers returning to work after long periods of absence and back similar schemes in the public sector. (p58)
- This year introduce thirty hours of free childcare for three and four-year-olds for working parents who find it difficult to manage the costs of childcare, and assess what more is needed, including looking at the best ways that childcare is provided elsewhere in Europe and the world. (p72)
- Immediately institute a capital fund to help primary schools develop nurseries where they currently do not have the facilities to provide one and introduce a presumption that all new primary schools should include a nursery. (p72)

- Continue to support maintained nurseries and allow them to take on academy freedoms, supporting them to grow independently or as part of a multi-academy trust. (p72)

### ■ LABOUR

- Seek to roll out educational provision for early years children as part of a National Education Service. (p 35)
- Overhaul the existing childcare system in which subsidies are given directly to parents, and transition to a system of high-quality childcare places in mixed environments with direct government subsidy. (p35)
- Maintain current commitments on free hours and make significant capital investment during the first two years of government to ensure demand is met. (p35)
- Phase in subsidised provision on top of free-hour entitlements. (p35)
- Transition to a qualified, graduate-led workforce, by increasing staff wages and enhancing training opportunities. (p35)



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## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

- 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. (p36)
- Halt the closures of Sure Start centres and increase the amount of money available for Sure Start. (p36)

### ■ LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

- Invest in high-quality early years education, tripling the Early Years Pupil Premium to £1,000. (p25)
- Aim for every formal early years setting to employ at least one person who holds an early years teacher qualification by 2022. (p26)
- Establish a new online Family University, supported by leading organisations such as the BBC and Open University, to provide every family with advice and guidance for learning and parenting at home. (p30)
- Extend free childcare to all two-year-olds and to the children of working families from the end of paid parental leave. (p57)
- Expand Shared Parental Leave with an additional 'use it or lose it' month to encourage fathers to take time off with young children. (p58)
- Make Paternity and Shared Parental Leave a 'day one' right. (p58)
- Encourage employers to provide more flexible working so that there is a presumption that work is flexible unless there is a clear business reason it cannot be. (p58)

- Provide 15 hours a week of free childcare to the parents of all two-year-olds in England. We will then prioritise 15 hours' free childcare for all working parents in England with children aged between nine months and two years. (p58)
- Commit to a long-term goal of 30 hours' free childcare a week for all parents in England with children aged from two to four years, and all working parents from the end of paid parental leave to two years. (p58)
- Ensure that this provision is fully funded at sustainable levels, provides flexibility for parents who work unsocial hours and enables parents to use free hours during school holidays. (p58)

### ■ UKIP

- A far-reaching review of childcare provision is still urgently needed, not least to de-regulate and simplify an increasingly fragmented system. (p28)
- Allow parents to use their free childcare entitlements to access a greater choice of childcare providers by removing restrictions limiting them only to Ofsted-registered childcare providers. (p28)
- Extend the primary school day by offering wrap-around childcare from 8am to 6pm during term time. (p28)
- Require local authorities to keep a register of childcare providers willing to provide emergency childcare cover at short notice. (p28)



- Amend planning legislation in order to promote nursery or crèche provision in developments such as shopping centres, office blocks, hospitals, airports, and railway stations. (p28)
- Create a fund worth £80 million a year to help childminders and smaller childcare providers employing five people or fewer, to open their doors to more children with special needs. Grants of up to £3,000 will be available to adapt their premises to make them more accessible and to equip their staff with specialist training and equipment. (p28)

#### ■ GREEN PARTY

- Free universal early education and childcare for all children, with formal education starting at age 7. (p13)

## Children's social care and vulnerable children

#### ■ CONSERVATIVES

- Lead a global effort to close down online spaces for those who abuse children, incite violence or propagate hate speech. (p38)
- Work to end the subjugation and mutilation of women and to combat the brutal slave trade in fellow human beings. (p39)
- Wherever possible, the Government will offer asylum and refuge to people in parts of the world affected by conflict and oppression, rather than to those who have made it to Britain. (p40)
- Work to reduce asylum claims made in Britain and increase the number of people we help in the most troubled regions. (p40)

- Continue to work with other countries in Europe, and the United Nations, to review the international legal definitions of asylum and refugee status. (p40)
- Make sure councils get the help they need to deal with refugees and asylum-seekers as they arrive, and establish schemes to help individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to provide housing and other support for refugees. (p40)
- Ensure that child victims and victims of sexual violence are able to be cross-examined before their trial without the distress of having to appear in court. (p44)
- Take focused action to provide the support needed by children and young people and ensure better access to care for children and young people. (p72)
- Publish a green paper on young people's mental health before the end of this year. (p72)
- Introduce mental health first aid training for teachers in every primary and secondary school by the end of the Parliament and ensure that every school has a single point of contact with mental health services. (p72)
- Every child will learn about mental wellbeing and the mental health risks of internet harms in the curriculum. (p73)
- Reform Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services so that children with serious conditions are seen within an appropriate timeframe and no child has to leave their local area and their family to receive normal treatment. (p73)



# MANIFESTO POLICY PROPOSALS

## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

- Demand all local authorities be commissioners of the highest-quality family support and child protection services, removing these responsibilities from the weakest councils and placing them in trust. (p73)
- Ensure that councils provide consistency of care and cannot relocate vulnerable children far from their home when it is not in their best interests to do so. (p73)
- Review support for Children in Need to understand why their outcomes are so poor and what more support they might require, in and out of school. (p73)
- Explore ways to improve the family justice system to do more to support families, valuing the roles of mothers and fathers, while ensuring parents face up to their responsibilities. (p73)

### ■ LABOUR

- Commit to tackle child poverty with a new Child Poverty Strategy. (p56)
- End the scandal of children being treated on adult mental health wards and stop people being sent across the country, away from their support networks, to secure the treatment they need by bringing forward the ending of out-of-area placements to 2019. (p73)
- Invest in early intervention by increasing the proportion of mental health budgets spent on support for children and young people. (p73)
- Support all training routes for social workers, including initial social work training provided within or accredited by a higher education institution. (p86)

- Prevent the private sector and subsidiaries of private companies from running child protection services. (p86)
- Deliver earlier protection to victims of abuse by strengthening mandatory reporting, and guaranteeing allegations will be reported and action taken to make children safe. (p86)
- Refocus social care to work with families in local communities to prevent children becoming at risk of going into care. (p87)
- Increase support for children in kinship and foster care, and their families. (p87)
- Support further regulation of commercial fostering agencies, as well as commissioning a review on establishing a national fostering service. (p87)
- Extend Staying Put arrangements to support all children and young people in residential and other forms of care until they are 21. (p87)
- Enshrine the European Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law. (p87)
- End the cuts to youth services. (p87)

### ■ LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

- Continue to roll out waiting time standards for children and adults, including a guarantee that people will not wait more than six weeks for therapy for depression or anxiety and no young person will wait more than two weeks for treatment when they experience a first episode of psychosis. (p18)
- Continue to promote the Frontline programme to fast-track graduates into children's social work, as well as the Think Ahead scheme aimed at encouraging high-achieving graduates to pursue a career in mental health social work. (p18)



- Ensure that identification and support for special educational needs and disabilities takes place as early as possible. All new policies should have an assessment of how they affect pupils who have special educational needs, and ensure they adhere to duties under the Equality Act. (p28)
  - Ensure that all teaching staff have the training to identify mental health issues and that schools provide immediate access for pupil support and counselling. (p29)
  - Reinstate the legally binding poverty targets of the Child Poverty Act. (p59)
  - Reopen the Dubs scheme to take 3,000 unaccompanied refugee children from Europe. (p69)
  - Maintain cross-border co-operation in combatting serious organised crime, including child sexual exploitation, by retaining the European Arrest Warrant, membership of Europol and access to EU information databases. (p72)
- **UKIP**
- Increase planned spending on mental health services by at least £500 million every year. This sum could fund 6,000 clinical psychologists to see 500,000 more adults and young people every year. (p21)
  - Integrate mental health training into the teacher-training syllabus and develop a national school-based counselling strategy for England, on a par with Wales and Northern Ireland. (p22)
  - 28 days maximum waiting time between a mental health referral and first appointment. (p22)
  - Smooth transition between child and adult, and physical and mental care services, with professionals sharing best practice and having a central point of communication. (p22)
  - Specialist counselling services will be available in all secondary schools. (p22)
  - Extend the remit of the current cross-government Internet Safety Strategy and invite participants to consider whether new legislation is required to address the problem of online abuse. (p22)
  - All disabled learners must have the legal right to attend either mainstream courses in mainstream education settings, or schools exclusively tailored to their needs. It should be their choice. (p26)
  - Reverse the policy of closing special schools, and ensure all other schools are accessible to disabled learners and that individual support is in place for each child. (p26)
  - Give visiting rights to grandparents and to review the operation of the Family Court. (p28)
  - Remove the current blanket ban on media reporting of placement and adoption proceedings and allowing journalists to report on such cases on the same basis as other family law proceedings. (p28)
  - Publish all case summaries, skeleton arguments, judgements and other documents relating to family proceedings as a matter of course, on an anonymised basis. (p28)
  - Require expert witnesses to list previous court cases in which they have given evidence. (p28)



# MANIFESTO POLICY PROPOSALS

## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

- Promote more extensive use of Special Guardianship Orders so that children can retain links with their birth family. (p28)
- Make failure to report a known instance of FGM a criminal offence. (p36)
- Implement a screening programme for girls identified to be at risk of FGM from birth to age sixteen, consisting of annual non-invasive physical check-ups. (p36)
- Carry out additional check-ups on girls at risk when they return to the UK from trips to countries where FGM is known to be customary. (p36)
- Make FGM an indictable offence (meaning it can only be heard in the Crown Court) with a sentencing starting point of six years. (p36)
- Add so-called 'honour crimes' to the Sentencing Council's guidelines listing aggravating factors which make a crime more serious and so may incur a higher sentence. (p41)
- Prosecute all cases of adult sexual behaviour with under-age minors, and maintain the current age of consent. (p41)

### ■ GREEN PARTY

- Introduce mental health awareness training within the public sector and encourage a more open dialogue on the issue in wider society. (p11)
- Review the effectiveness of how public services are structured, sensitive to the needs of all people, including assessment of how care is provided at the transition age of 18. (p11)
- Ensure that every child with Special Educational Needs or Disability has access to a mainstream education, in accordance with the UN Convention for Persons with Disabilities. (p13)
- A humane immigration and asylum system that recognises and takes responsibility for Britain's ongoing role in causing the flow of migrants worldwide. (p19)
- Implement a UK-wide strategy to tackle gender based violence, including domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse, FGM and trafficking. (p19)

## Education and standards

### ■ CONSERVATIVES

- Strengthen the teaching of literacy and numeracy in the early years. (p51)
- Build on the success of the phonics screening test. (p51)
- Expect every 11-year-old to know their times tables off by heart. (p51)
- Improve schools' accountability at key stage 3 and expect 75 per cent of pupils to have been entered for the EBacc combination of GCSEs by the end of the next Parliament, with 90 per cent of pupils studying this combination of academic GCSEs by 2025. (p51)
- Introduce a curriculum fund to encourage Britain's leading cultural and scientific institutions, like the British Museum and others to help develop knowledge-rich materials for our schools. (p51)



## ■ LABOUR

- Create a unified National Education Service (NES) for England to move towards cradle-to-grave learning that is free at the point of use. (p34)
- The NES will incorporate all forms of education, from early years through to adult education. (p34)
- Drive up standards across the board, learning from examples of best practice, such as Labour's London Challenge, to encourage cooperation and strong leadership across schools. (p37)
- Make age-appropriate sex and relationship education (SRE) a compulsory part of the curriculum. (p77)
- Ensure that the new guidance for relationships and sex education is LGBT inclusive. (p111)
- Enable everyone to find their learning path through a wide choice of courses and qualifications. Invest in measures to close the attainment gap between children from different backgrounds. (p38)
- Abandon plans to reintroduce baseline assessments and launch a commission to look into curriculum and assessment, starting by reviewing Key Stage 1 and 2 SATs. (p38)
- Deliver a strategy for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) based on inclusivity, and embed SEND more substantially into training for teachers and non-teaching staff. (p38)

## ■ LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

- Introduce a slimmed down core national curriculum to be taught in all state-funded schools, including PSHE. (p28)
- Include SRE teaching about sexual consent, LGBT+ relationships, and issues surrounding explicit images and content. (p29)
- Protect the education budget in real terms per pupil from early years to age 19. (p37)
- Extend free school meals to all children in primary education and promote school breakfast clubs. (p30)

## ■ UKIP

- Education should focus on personal wellbeing, practical coping skills, and developing positive social relationships, as well as academic performance. (p22)
- Introduce emotional health and wellbeing into the Ofsted inspection framework. (p22)
- Encourage schools to invite specialist mental health support organisations into school. (p22)
- Make phonics the model for teaching children to read and write. (p24)
- Renew focus on mental arithmetic skills and learning times tables, and encourage children to learn languages from year 1 of primary school. (p24)
- Abolish Key Stage 1 SATs. (p24)
- Require every primary school to nominate a science leader to inspire and equip the next generation of scientists and engineers. (p24)
- End sex education in primary schools. (p24)



# MANIFESTO POLICY PROPOSALS

## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

### ■ GREEN PARTY

- Enable every young person to take an active role in democracy, introducing non-biased political education and promoting active citizenship, as well as lowering the voting age to 16. (p15)

## Schools

### ■ CONSERVATIVES

- Support village schools in rural areas. (p26)
- Continue with the programme of free schools, building at least a hundred new free schools a year. (p50)
- Introduce new funding arrangements in order to open a specialist maths school in every major city in England. (p50)
- Replace the inclusivity rules that prevent the establishment of new Roman Catholic schools, instead requiring new faith schools to prove that parents of other faiths and none would be prepared to send their children to that school. (p50)
- Work with the Independent Schools Council to ensure that at least 100 leading independent schools become involved in academy sponsorship or the founding of free schools in the state system, keeping open the option of changing the tax status of independent schools if progress is not made. (p50)
- Lift the ban on the establishment of selective schools, subject to conditions, such as allowing pupils to join at other ages as well as eleven. (p50)
- Conduct a review of school admissions policy. (p50)
- Continue to make school funding fairer still, whilst making sure that no school has its budget cut as a result of the new formula. (p51)
- Increase the overall schools budget by £4 billion by 2022, representing more than a real terms increase for every year of the Parliament. (p51)
- Continue to protect the Pupil Premium to support those who need it. (p51)
- Schools in England will offer a free school breakfast to every child in every year of primary school, while children from low-income families will continue to receive free school lunches throughout their years in primary and secondary education. (p52)

### ■ LABOUR

- No new grammar schools or investment in inefficient free schools. (p37)
- Oppose any attempt to force schools to become academies. (p37)
- Introduce a fairer funding formula that leaves no school worse off, while redressing the historical underfunding of certain schools. (p37)
- Invest in new school buildings, including the phased removal of asbestos from existing schools. (p37)
- Require joined-up admissions policies across local schools to enable councils to fulfil their responsibilities on child places, to simplify the admissions process for parents and to ensure that no child slips through the net. (p38)
- Reduce class sizes to less than 30 for all five, six, and seven-year-olds, and seek to extend that as resources allow. (p38)



- Introduce free school meals for all primary school children, paid for by removing the VAT exemption on private school fees. (p38)
- Put £150 million back into supporting children in schools by scrapping plans for schools to pay the apprenticeship levy. (p38)
- Extend schools-based counselling to all schools to improve children's mental health, at a cost of £90 million per year. (p38)
- Launch a careers advice campaign in schools to demonstrate the range of careers and opportunities available, and the skills required in the creative industries, from the tech sector to theatre production. (p96)
- Introduce an arts pupil premium to every primary school in England – a £160 million annual per year boost for schools to invest in projects that will support cultural activities for schools over the longer term. (p95)
- Review the EBacc performance measure to make sure arts are not sidelined from secondary education. (p95)

#### ■ LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

- Investing nearly £7 billion extra in our children's education, increasing school budgets and the Pupil Premium, and introducing a fairer national funding formula. (p25)
- Reverse all cuts to front-line school and college budgets, protecting per-pupil funding in real terms. (p26)
- Oppose the planned expansion of grammar schools and devolve all capital monies for new school spaces to local authorities. (p28)
- Give local authorities democratic control over admissions and new schools. (p28)
- Repeal the rule that all new state-funded schools must be free schools or academies. (p28)
- Encourage local headteachers with a strong record to play a key role in school improvement, working with local authorities. (p28)
- Rule out state-funded profit-making schools. (p28)
- Ensure collaboration between leading education and family organisations to improve the flow of helpful information between home and school without increasing teacher workload. (p30)
- Capital investment in schools to support capacity increases and modernisation. (p37)

#### ■ UKIP

- Open a grammar school in every town, adapting the old 11+ system to add transfer examinations up to the age of sixteen. (p25)
- Fund all secondary schools according to a single formula. (p26)
- Make First Aid training a statutory requirement so pupils obtain a 'Basic Life-Saving Diploma.' (p26)

#### ■ GREEN PARTY

- Fund schools to ensure real term spending per pupil increases and is protected. (p13)
- Bring Academies and Free Schools into the local authority system, abolish SATS and reduce class sizes. (p13)
- Call for the end of privatisation in education. (p13)



# MANIFESTO POLICY PROPOSALS

## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

### Teaching and governance

#### ■ CONSERVATIVES

- Prohibit councils from creating any new places in schools that have been rated either 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' by Ofsted. (p50)
- Consider how Ofsted can give parents more information on what their children are being taught. (p51)

#### ■ LABOUR

- Ensure that all schools are democratically accountable, including appropriate controls to see that they serve the public interest and their local communities. (p38)
- Tackle the teacher recruitment and retention crisis by ending the public-sector pay cap. (p38)
- Give teachers more direct involvement in the curriculum, and tackle rising workloads by reducing monitoring and bureaucracy. (p38)
- Consult on introducing teacher sabbaticals and placements with industry to encourage interaction between education and industry and introduce broad experiences into the classroom. (p38)
- Reintroduce the Schools Support Staff Negotiating Body and national pay settlements for teachers. (p38)

#### ■ LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

- End the 1 per cent cap on teachers' pay rises. (p27)
- Guarantee all teachers in state-funded schools will be fully qualified or working towards qualified teacher status from January 2019. (p27)
- Introduce a clear entitlement to high-quality professional development for all teachers of 25 hours per year by 2020, rising to 50 hours by 2025. (p27)
- Establish an independent Education Standards Authority to pilot and resource future policy changes in consultation with experts. (p27)
- Reform Ofsted inspections to focus on longer-term outcomes and sustainable improvement. (p27)
- Allow Ofsted to inspect both local authorities and academy chains. (p28)

#### ■ UKIP

- Include information on cultural crimes in safeguarding training for teachers, staff and school governors. (p37)
- Immediately put into Special Measures schools found to be exposing children to Islamism. (p38)
- Giving schools the right to dismiss forthwith any teachers, members of staff or governors found to be actively supporting radical mosques or imams. (p38)



- Require Ofsted to conduct snap inspections of schools when parents or pupils have raised concerns that girls are being discriminated against; anti-equality views are being expressed by staff or governors; or Muslim or non-Muslim pupils who challenge or do not share hardline views are being bullied or ridiculed. (p38)

#### ■ GREEN PARTY

- Address the crisis of teacher workload, with measures such as abolishing Ofsted, and reforming the curriculum so that it is pupil-centred. (p13)

## Further and higher education

#### ■ CONSERVATIVES

- Make it a condition for universities hoping to charge maximum tuition fees to become involved in academy sponsorship or the founding of free schools. (p50)
- Reform of the funding, institutional and qualifications frameworks for technical education, in partnership with British industry. (p52)
- Replace 13,000 existing technical qualifications with new qualifications, known as T-levels, across fifteen routes in subjects including construction, creative and design, digital, engineering and manufacturing, and health and science. Increase the number of teaching hours by fifty per cent to an average of 900 hours per year and make sure that each student does a three-month work placement as part of their course. (p52)

- Invest in further education (FE) colleges to make sure they have world-class equipment and facilities. (p52)
- Create a new national programme to attract experienced industry professionals to work in FE colleges. (p52)
- Establish new institutes of technology, backed by leading employers and linked to leading universities, in every major city in England, providing courses at degree level and above, specialising in technical disciplines. They will develop their own local identity to make sure they can meet the skills needs of local employers. (p52)
- Launch a major review of funding across further, technical and higher education as a whole. (p53)
- Ensure that colleges deliver the skills required by local businesses through Skills Advisory Panels and Local Enterprise Partnerships working at a regional and local level. (p53)
- Deliver the commitment to create 3 million apprenticeships for young people by 2020 and drive up the quality of apprenticeships to ensure they deliver the skills employers need. (p53)
- Allow large firms to pass levy funds to small firms in their supply chain, and work with the business community to develop a new programme to allow larger firms to place apprentices in their supply chains. (p53)



# MANIFESTO POLICY PROPOSALS

## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

- Introduce a UCAS-style portal for technical education. (p53)
- Introduce significantly discounted bus and train travel for apprentices. (p53)
- Help all workers seeking to develop their skills in their existing jobs by introducing a new right to request leave for training for all employees. (p53)
- Introducing a national retraining scheme with the costs of training met by the government, with companies able to gain access to the apprenticeship levy to support wage costs during the training period. (p53)
- Break down the barriers to public sector workers taking on more qualified roles because of their prior educational attainment. For instance, we will ensure that teaching assistants can become qualified teachers and healthcare assistants can become nurses via a degree apprenticeship route. (p53)
- Introduce a right to lifelong learning in digital skills. (p53)
- Back new scientific and technical institutions and see universities sponsor local schools and be creative about how they can open up opportunities for local people, especially those from ordinary working backgrounds. (p25)
- Improve careers advice and open up a range of routes through, and back into, education, striking a balance between classroom and on-the-job training, to ensure students gain both technical and soft skills. (p39)
- Implement the Sainsbury recommendations, by correcting historic neglect of the FE sector by giving the sector investment in teachers and facilities. (p39)
- Bring funding for 16 to 18-year-olds in line with Key Stage 4 baselines, while ensuring that the budget is distributed fairly between colleges and school sixth forms. (p40)
- Restore the Education Maintenance Allowance for 16 to 18-year-olds from lower and middle income backgrounds. (p40)
- Replace Advanced Learner Loans and upfront course fees with direct funding, making FE courses free at the point of use, including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses. (p40)
- Set a target, backed up by funding, for all FE teaching staff to have a teaching qualification within five years. (p40)
- Increase capital investment to equip colleges to deliver T-levels and an official pre-apprenticeship trainee programme. (p40)
- Set up a commission on Lifelong Learning tasked with integrating further and higher education. (p42)

### ■ LABOUR

- Introduce free, lifelong education in further education (FE) colleges, enabling everyone to upskill or retrain at any point in life. (p39)
- Abandon plans to once again reinvent the wheel by building new technical colleges, redirecting the money to increase teacher numbers in the FE sector. (p39)

### ■ LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

- Improve the quality of vocational education, including skills for entrepreneurship and self-employment, and improve careers advice in schools and colleges. (p29)



- Improve links between employers and schools, encouraging all schools to participate in employment and enterprise schemes that promote regular experiences in business. (p29)
- Aim to double the number of businesses which hire apprentices, including by extending apprenticeships to new sectors such as creative and digital industries. (p31)
- Develop national colleges as national centres of expertise for key sectors, such as renewable energy, to deliver the high-level vocational skills. (p31)
- Work with the Apprenticeship Advisory Group to increase the number of apprentices from BAME backgrounds, ensure gender balance and encourage under-represented groups to apply. (p31)
- Identify and seek to solve skills gaps – for example the lack of advanced technicians by expanding higher vocational training. (p31)
- Ensure that all the receipts from the apprenticeship levy in England are spent on training, aiming to fund a wider range of types of training. (p31)
- Aim to meet all basic skills needs including literacy, numeracy and digital skills by 2030. (p32)
- Create individual accounts for funding mature adult and part-time learning and training, and provide for all adults individual access to all necessary career information, advice and guidance. (p32)
- Review the current Career Transition Partnership with a view to extending its remit to provide free further or higher education for anyone who has served in the armed forces for 12 years or more. (p84)

## ■ UKIP

- Invest in vocational education and technical training. (p24)
- Introduce a scheme similar to Germany's Dual Vocational Training system in which students attend classes at a vocational school and receive on-the-job training at a company. (p25)
- Ensure effective career development assumes a more important role in the national curriculum and is assessed accordingly. (p25)
- Introduce practical 'employability' lessons into the careers' syllabus, teaching 'soft' skills such as interview skills, team-working and time-management, making presentations, public speaking, networking, making a good first impression, and developing social skills. (p25-26)
- Schools and colleges should establish links with local businesses, to tell students what they need from new recruits, to offer advice, and to show how business works. (p26)
- Include practical information about setting up your own business into the syllabus. (p26)

## ■ GREEN PARTY

- Greater public investment in further and higher education. (p13)
- Restore Education Maintenance Allowance and enable apprenticeships to all qualified young people aged 16-25. (p13)
- Protect opportunities for young people in work and education by relieving students of the burden of debt, scrapping tuition fees and restoring living grants. Guarantee the rights of young people to study, work, live and travel in the EU, including through schemes like Erasmus. (p15)





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