

General Election 2019: Labour party manifesto science and education policies

Please note that we have summarised the party's main manifesto only. You can find the manifesto in full [here](#).

Climate and energy

Labour:

- Kick-start a “Green Industrial Revolution” that will look to create one million jobs in the UK “to transform industry, energy, transport, agriculture and our buildings, while restoring nature.”
- Implement a “Green New Deal”, which aims to achieve the substantial majority of UK emissions reductions by 2030, in a way that is evidence-based.
- Invest £250 billion from the National Transformation Fund to fund the transition through a “Green Transformation Fund,” dedicated to renewable and low carbon energy and transport, biodiversity and environmental restoration.
- Develop the recommendations of Labour’s ‘30 by 2030’ report to put the UK on track for a net zero carbon energy system within the 2030s.
- Deliver nearly 90% of electricity and 50% of heat from renewable and low-carbon sources by 2030.
- Build 7,000 new offshore wind turbines and 2,000 new onshore wind turbines.
- Build enough solar panels to cover 22,000 football pitches.
- Build new nuclear power needed for energy security.
- Trial and expand tidal energy and invest to reduce the costs of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen production.
- Upgrade “almost all” of the UK’s 27 million homes to the highest energy-efficiency standard
- Introduce a zero carbon homes standard for all new homes.
- Roll out technologies like heat pumps, solar hot water and hydrogen.
- Invest in district heat networks using waste heat.
- Expand power storage and invest in grid enhancements and interconnectors.
- Expand distributed and community energy.
- Immediately and permanently ban fracking.
- Support energy workers through transition and guarantee them retraining and a new, unionised job on equivalent terms and conditions.
- Introduce a windfall tax on oil companies.
- Provide a strategy to safeguard the people, jobs and skills that depend on the offshore oil and gas industry.
- Bring energy and water systems into public ownership.
- Reinvest surplus energy and water to reduce bills.
- Create a new UK national energy agency, which will own and maintain the national grid infrastructure and oversee the delivery of decarbonisation targets.

- Create 14 new regional energy agencies to replace the existing district network operators and hold statutory responsibility for decarbonising electricity and heat and reducing fuel poverty.
- Bring the supply arms of the “big six” energy companies into public ownership.
- Pledges to ensure that “whenever public money is invested in an energy generation project, the public sector will take a stake and return profits to the public.”
- Instruct the Committee on Climate Change to assess the emissions the UK imports, as well as those it reduces and recommend policies to tackle them.
- Fund R&D into newer technologies like hydrogen and carbon capture and storage.
- Modernise public buildings to ensure a reduction in their carbon footprint.
- Launch a “National Transformation Fund” of £400 billion and rewrite the Treasury’s investment rules to “guarantee that every penny spent is compatible with the UK’s climate and environmental targets – and that the costs of not acting are fully accounted for too.”
- Rebuild climate expertise within the Foreign Office, “putting climate diplomacy at the heart of foreign policy.”
- Provide new and additional spending on international climate finance to bring the total to £4 billion a year.
- Stop all aid spending on fossil fuel production overseas, and redirect it towards clean, renewable energy.

Environment and ecology

Labour:

- Ensure the NHS becomes a net zero carbon service and introduce an “NHS Forest” of one million trees, more efficient heating and insulation systems, greater reliance on renewable energy, including more solar panelling and a transition to electric paramedic vehicles, NHS fleet cars and hybrid ambulances.
- Introduce a Climate and Environment Emergency Bill setting out robust, binding new standards for decarbonisation, nature recovery, environmental quality and habitats and species protection.
- Labour’s “Plan for Nature” will set legally binding targets to drive the restoration of species and habitat.
- Fully fund the Environment Agency and other frontline environment agencies and improve upstream river management.
- Create new national parks alongside a revised system of other protected area designations.

Agriculture and fisheries

Labour:

- Maintain agricultural and rural structural funds but “repurpose” them to support environmental land management and sustainable methods of food production.

- Re-establish an agricultural wages board in England.
- Set maximum sustainable yields for all shared fish stocks.
- Aim to achieve net zero carbon food production in Britain by 2040.

Water and air

Labour:

- Any expansion of airports must pass Labour's tests on air quality, noise pollution, climate change obligations and countrywide benefits.
- Introduce a new clean air act, with a vehicle scrappage scheme and clean air zones, complying with World Health Organisation limits.
- Provide an extra £5.6 billion in funding to improve the standard of flood defences and respond to the increased risk of flooding.

Health and biomedicine

Labour:

- Establish a royal commission to develop a public health approach to substance misuse, focusing on harm reduction rather than criminalisation.
- Establish a generic drug company.
- Labour promise that if fair prices are rejected for patented drugs they will use the Patents Act provisions, compulsory licences and research exemptions to secure access to generic versions.
- Increase the number of pharmaceutical jobs in the UK.
- Ensure rewards and incentives match the areas of greatest health need.

Food and drink

Labour:

- Establish a National Food Commission and review the Allotments Act.
- Enforce stricter rules around the advertising of junk food.

Animal Research

Labour:

- Introduce an animal welfare commissioner.

Science and exiting the EU

Labour:

- Continue participation in EU agencies and funding programmes, including scientific research and culture.

Research funding and higher education policy

Labour:

- Set a target for 3% of GDP to be spent on R&D by 2030.
- Increase direct support for R&D and reforming the innovation ecosystem to better 'crowd in' private investment.
- Put "British innovation at the heart of procurement."
- Abolish university tuition fees and the reintroduction of maintenance grants.
- Develop a new funding formula for higher education that ensures all public HE institutions have adequate funding for teaching and research, widens access to higher education and ends the casualisation of staff.
- Introduce post qualification admissions in higher education.

Schools education policy

Labour:

- Introduce a £150 billion social transformation fund to replace, upgrade and expand our schools, hospitals, care homes and council houses.
- Support recruitment of an additional 150,000 early years staff, including special education needs coordinators.
- Introduce "a fairer funding formula" for schools.
- Provide schools with long term funding and ensure that primary schools have maximum class sizes of 30.
- Scrap Key Stage 1 and 2 SATs and baseline assessments and refocus assessment on supporting pupil progress.
- Review the curriculum to cover subjects like black history and the environmental emergency.
- Transfer budget and day-to-day decisions back to schools, overseen by an accountable governing body with elected representative.
- 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.
- Replace Ofsted and transfer responsibilities for inspections to a new body which shall be designed to drive school improvement.
- Return of the school support staff negotiating body and national pay settlements for teachers.
- Align the base rate of per pupil funding in post-16 education with key stage 4, providing dedicated capital funding to expand provision and bringing back the Education Maintenance Allowance.

Diversity and inclusion

Labour:

- Enable positive action for recruitment to roles where employers can “justify the need for more diversity.”
- Introduce a right for all workers to request flexibility over their hours from the first day of employment.
- Ensure that the single-sex-based exemptions contained in the Equality Act 2010 are understood and fully enforced in service provision.
- Extend pay-gap reporting to BAME groups and tackle pay discrimination on the basis of race.
- Require that all employers be trained to better support disabled people, while introducing mandatory disability pay-gap reporting for companies with over 250 employees.
- End disability discrimination and update the Equality Act to introduce new specific duties including disability leave, paid and recorded separately from sick leave.
- Appoint a dedicated global ambassador to the Foreign Office on LGBT+ issues.
- Work to eliminate institutional biases against BAME communities.
- Give effect to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and amend the Equality Act to reflect the social model of disability.
- Require employers to devise and implement plans to eradicate the gender pay gap, and inequalities underpinned by race and/or disability, or face fines.
- Take action to close the gender pay gap by 2030.
- Take steps to safeguard LGBT+ rights inside or outside the EU, such as retaining and promoting the Human Rights Act.