

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.

Liberal Democrats

Science

- Science and research funding: Research is vital for our long-term prosperity, security and wellbeing – but the Leave vote has already started to affect existing and proposed research programmes. We will campaign against any reduction in investment in UK universities and for their right to apply for EU funds on equal terms.
- Protect the science budget, including the recent £2 billion increase, by continuing to raise it at least in line with inflation. Our long-term goal is to double innovation and research spending across the economy. We would guarantee to underwrite funding for British partners in EU-funded projects such as Horizon 2020 who would suffer from cancellation of income on Brexit.
- Ensure the UK is an attractive destination for overseas students. We will reinstate post-study work visas for graduates in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects who find suitable employment within six months of graduating. Give the devolved administrations the right to sponsor additional post-study work visas.
- Invest to eliminate within a generation preventable diseases like TB, HIV and malaria and explore new ways to support research and development into vaccinations and treatment to combat these and other deadly diseases and infections.

Education

Early Years

- High quality early years education
- Every early years setting to employ at least one person who holds an early years teacher qualification by 2022
- Triple the early years pupil premium to £1000

Schools

- Investing £7billion
- Protect per-pupil funding in real terms
- Increasing school budgets and protect Pupil Premium
- Introduce a fairer national funding formula – no school loses money
- Opposing development of new selective schools

Charles Darwin House, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JU Tel: +44 (0)20 7685 2550 policy@rsb.org.uk
www.rsb.org.uk

- Local authorities – have responsibility for local school places
- Oppose expansion of grammar schools
- Allow Ofsted to inspect local authorities and academy chains
- New schools to be built in areas where there is a need for new school places
- All new policies should have an assessment of how they affect pupils with special educational needs
- Prioritise primary progress measures instead of floor thresholds
- Improve the quality of vocational education, including skills for entrepreneurship and self-employment, and improve careers advice in schools and colleges
- Improve links between employers and schools
- Challenge gender stereotyping and early sexualisation
- Ensure that all teaching staff have the training to identify mental health issues and that schools provide immediate access for pupil support and counselling.
- promoting wellbeing as a statutory duty of a school
- Extend free school meals to all children in primary education and promote school breakfast clubs
- Tackle bullying in schools, including bullying on the basis of gender, sexuality, gender identity or gender expression

School curriculum

- Protect the availability of arts and creative subject
- A curriculum entitlement – slimmed down core national curriculum taught in all state funded schools. Including: Personal, Social and Health Education: a ‘curriculum for life’ including financial literacy, first aid and emergency lifesaving skills, mental health education, citizenship and age-appropriate Sex and Relationship Education (SRE). Include in SRE teaching about sexual consent, LGBT+ relationships, and issues surrounding explicit images and content.
- Make the curriculum the responsibility of an Educational Standards Authority

Family

- 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, as well as inspiring trips out and local opportunities.
- Ensure collaboration between leading education and family organisations

Teachers

- End 1% cap on teachers’ pay rises
- All teachers in state-funded schools will be fully qualified or working towards QTS from January 2019
- Funded entitlement to professional development for all teachers – 25 hours per year by 2020, 50 hours by 2025
- Long term planning of initial teacher training places – partnerships with higher education and specialist routes such as Teach First – focus on recruiting into shortage areas such as science, tech, engineering, arts and maths

- Tackle teacher workload:
 - Establishing an independent Education Standards Authority to pilot, phase in and resource future policy changes in consultation with professionals and experts.
 - Reforming Ofsted inspections so that they include a focus on longer-term outcomes and sustainable improvement as well as teacher workload, sickness and retention.
 - Supporting the establishment of a new, independent Foundation for Leadership in Education, working under the umbrella of the Chartered College of Teaching, to promote high-quality, evidence-based leadership and help the best leaders into the most challenging schools.
- Work with Education Endowment Foundation establish an evidence base for what works well in teaching

Higher Education

- Reinstate maintenance grants for the poorest students
- Establish a review of higher education finance in the next parliament to consider any necessary reforms
- Ensure that all universities work to widen participation across the sector
- Reverse the damage to universities and academics by changing the country's course away from a hard Brexit
- Recognise the value of international staff to universities and promote international collaboration.
- Fight to retain access to Horizon 2020 and Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions funding
- Reinstate quality assurance for universities applying for degree-awarding powers
- Recognising their largely temporary status, remove students from the official migration statistics.
- Ensure the UK is an attractive destination for overseas students. We will reinstate post-study work visas for graduates in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects who find suitable employment within six months of graduating. Give the devolved administrations the right to sponsor additional post-study work visas.
- Work with universities to ensure a fair and transparent student visa process and find ways to measure accurately the number of students leaving at the end of their course

Apprenticeships

- Extending apprenticeships to new sectors such as creative and digital industries
- Double the number of businesses that hire apprentices
- Work with Apprenticeship Advisory Group to increase apprentices to come from, underrepresented groups
- Aim to fund a wider range of types of training through the apprenticeship levy

Lifelong learning / adult education

- Develop national colleges as centres of expertise
- Seek to solve skills gaps – expanding higher vocational training
- Meet all basic skills needs – literacy, numeracy and digital skills by 2030

- Create accounts for funding mature and part time learners
- Provide adults with access to careers guidance
- Credit transfer and recognition of prior qualifications