



NSEAD member briefing, June 2024
Education and Arts Manifesto pledges compared

18 June 2024

Arts and culture – curriculum and wider provision

Conservatives



- EXISTING – commitment to prioritise ‘core’ subjects
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Green Party



- A £5bn investment to support community sports, arts and culture.
 - Keeping local sports facilities, museums, theatres, libraries and art galleries open and thriving.
 - An end to VAT on cultural activities, lowering the prices of everything from museum tickets to gigs in local pubs and making these more accessible.
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Labour Party



- Commit to deliver a curriculum which is rich and broad, inclusive and innovative.
 - Launch an expert-led review of curriculum and assessment to address lack of provision for creative skills.
 - Support children to study a creative or vocational subject until they are 16 and ensure accountability measures reflect this.
 - Improve access to cultural assets by requiring publicly funded national museums and galleries to increase the loans they make from their collections to communities across the country
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Liberal Democrats



- Include arts subjects in the English Baccalaureate and give power to Ofsted to monitor the curriculum so that schools continue to provide a rich curriculum including subjects like art, music or drama.
 - Urgently establish a standing commission to build a long-term consensus across parties and teachers to broaden the curriculum and make qualifications at 16 and 18 fit for the 21st century. This will draw on best practice such as the International Baccalaureate and ensure children learn core skills such as critical thinking, verbal reasoning and creativity.
 - Expand provision of extracurricular activities, such as sport, music, drama, debating and coding, starting with a new free entitlement for disadvantaged children
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Plaid Cymru



No specific arts or creative education references.

Scottish
Nationalist Party



Manifesto not yet published.

Curriculum and assessment - general

Conservatives



- NEW - Mandate two hours of PE every week in primary and secondary schools
- EXISTING - Introduce the Advanced British Standard to replace A-levels and T-levels

Green Party



- Review assessment targets in schools so that arts and vocational subjects are “treated equally within the curriculum, children are supported to play and learn outdoors, and every child can learn about the climate and biodiversity crisis to equip them for the challenges ahead”
- Retain a “full, evidence-based and age-appropriate programme” of relationships, sex and health education, including LGBTIQ+ content and resources

Labour Party



- Promotion of numeracy, to improve the quality of maths teaching across nurseries and primary schools.
 - Launch an expert-led review of curriculum and assessment, working with school staff, parents and employers to change this.
 - Deliver a curriculum which is rich and broad, inclusive, and innovative. To capture this breadth, our review will consider the right balance of assessment methods whilst protecting the important role of examinations.
 - Support children to study a creative or vocational subject until they are 16, and ensure accountability measures reflect this.
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Liberal Democrats



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- Get more children active by protecting time for physical education.

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- Urgently establish a standing commission to build a long-term consensus across parties and teachers to broaden the curriculum and make qualifications at 16 and 18 fit for the 21st century. This will draw on best practice such as the International Baccalaureate and ensure children learn core skills such as critical thinking, verbal reasoning and creativity.
 - Improve the quality of vocational education, including skills for entrepreneurship and self-employment.
 - Strengthen careers advice and links with employers in schools and colleges.

Plaid Cymru



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- all learners should leave school able to speak both Welsh and English fluently, as well as at least one other language.
 - Reviewing the implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales and the Additional Learning Needs Act is essential, to ensure consistency in terms of the education and support learners receive wherever they are in Wales

Scottish Nationalist Party



Manifesto not yet published

School Funding and Pay

Conservatives



- NEW - Protect day-to-day schools spending in real terms per pupil over the next Parliament
- NEW - 15 new special free schools, on top of the 15 announced at the recent budget
- EXISTING - Attract more talented teachers by expanding the recruitment and retention premium and reducing workload. The extended levelling-up premium offers new priority subject teachers in priority areas up to £30,000 over five years
- EXISTING - Rebuild over 500 schools
- EXISTING - Rebuild or refurbish every school identified to have RAAC

Green Party



- Increase school funding by £8 billion, including £2 billion for a pay uplift for teachers
- Invest £2.5 million a year to tackle the RAAC concrete scandal and provide the funding needed for schools to be “well-maintained and fit for purpose”
- Spend £4 billion to insulate public buildings to EPC B standard or above. This is “primarily for schools and hospitals”
- Increase sixth-form education funding by £3 billion over the next Parliament

Labour Party





- Recruit an additional 6,500 new expert teachers.
- More teachers into shortage subjects, support areas that face recruitment challenges, and tackle retention issues.
- End the VAT exemption and business rates relief for private schools to invest in state schools.




Liberal Democrats

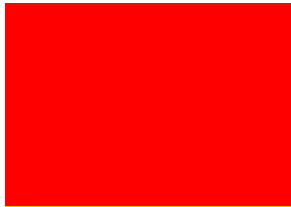


- Increase school and college funding per-pupil above the rate of inflation every year.
- End the “scandal of crumbling school and college buildings” by investing in new buildings and “clearing the backlog of repairs”.
- Reforming the School Teachers’ Review Body to make it properly independent of government and able to recommend fair pay rises for teachers, and fully funding those rises every year.
- Redirect capital funding for unnecessary new free schools to help clear the backlog of school repairs.

<p>Plaid Cymru</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and retain 5000 teachers and support staff. • Continue to support capital spending on upgrading and building new schools
<p>Scottish Nationalist Party</p>		<p>Manifesto not yet published</p>

Teacher training and development

<p>Conservatives</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXISTING - Support teachers to use “tried and tested techniques, including our world-leading phonics programme and our mastery approach to maths”
<p>Green Party</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest £5 billion in special needs (SEND) provision within mainstream schools. This means that all schools will have “fully accessible buildings and specially trained teachers, and local councils will have the funds to properly support SEND students at school and in getting to school”
<p>Labour Party</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the way bursaries are allocated, and the structure of retention payments. • Update the Early Career Framework, maintaining its grounding in evidence, and ensure any new teacher entering the classroom has, or is working towards, Qualified Teacher Status. • Introduce a new Teacher Training Entitlement to ensure teachers stay up to date on best practice with continuing professional development.



Liberal Democrats



- Reinststate the School Support Staff Negotiating Body, which will help address the acute recruitment and retention crisis in support roles.
- Create a new Excellence in Leadership Programme, a mentoring framework that expands the capacity of headteachers and leaders to improve their schools.
- Introduce new Regional Improvement Teams, to enhance school-to-school support, and spread best practice
- Creating a teacher workforce strategy to ensure that every secondary school child is taught by a specialist teacher in their subject.
- Funding teacher training properly so that all trainee posts in school are paid.
- Introducing a clear and properly funded programme of high-quality professional development for all teachers, including training on effective parental engagement.

Plaid Cymru



- Review all bursary schemes available to incentivise teachers, to ensure they attract applicants and help to fill recruitment gaps
- Conduct a review of Initial Teacher Education and Continuing Professional Development to ascertain their relevance to the demands of the new curriculum.
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Scottish Nationalist Party



Manifesto not yet published

SEND and Mental Health

Conservatives



- NEW - Expand coverage of mental health support teams from 50 to 100 per cent of schools and colleges in England by 2030

EXISTING – ‘Deliver’ 60,000 more SEND places

Green Party



- A “fully-inclusive” education system with “better-funded support for special educational needs”
- Ensure neurodivergent children and those with special needs are adequately supported, including in the school system, to live rich and fulfilling lives
- Provide a trained and paid counsellor in every primary and secondary school, and every sixth-form college
- This work will be supported through bursaries to train counsellors from underrepresented backgrounds
- Fully restore the role of the school nurse, ensuring that all schools have access to an on-site medical professional

Labour Party



- Fund evidence-based early-language interventions in primary schools, so that every child can find their voice.
- Take a community-wide approach, to improve inclusivity and expertise in mainstream schools, as well as ensuring special schools cater to those with the most complex needs.
- Admissions decisions to account for the needs of communities and require all schools to co-operate with their local authority on school admissions, SEND inclusion, and place planning.
- Provide access to specialist mental health professionals in every school, so every young person has access to early support to address problems before they escalate.
- Young Futures Hubs, which will make sure every community has an open-access hub for children and young people with drop-in mental health support.

Liberal Democrats



- Put a dedicated, qualified mental health professional in every primary and secondary school, making sure all children and parents have someone they can turn to for help, funded by increasing the Digital Services Tax on social media firms and other tech giants.
- Tackle the crisis in special educational needs provision, and help to end the postcode lottery in provision, by:
- Giving local authorities extra funding to reduce the amount that schools pay towards the cost of a child’s EHCP.



Plaid Cymru



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- Establishing a new National Body for SEND to fund support for children with very high needs.
 - Giving local authorities with responsibility for education the powers and resources to act as Strategic Education Authorities for their area, including responsibility for places planning, exclusions, administering admissions including in-year admissions, and SEND functions.
 - Put a “dedicated, qualified mental health professional in every primary and secondary school”, paid-for by increasing the digital services tax

**Scottish
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Manifesto not yet published

Post 16 Education and Universities

Conservatives



- Change the law to close university courses in England with the “worst outcomes” for their students. Courses that have excessive drop-out rates or leave students worse off than had they not gone to university will be prevented from recruiting students by the universities regulator.

Green Party



- Restore the Education Maintenance Allowance to financially support young people to extend their studies after the age of 16

Labour Party



- Bringing forward a comprehensive strategy for post-16 education.
- Guarantee training, an apprenticeship, or help to find work for all 18- to 21-year-olds.
- Transform Further Education colleges into specialist Technical Excellence Colleges that will work with businesses, trade unions, and local government to provide young people with better job opportunities.
- Reform the Apprenticeships Levy by creating a flexible Growth and Skills Levy.
- Support the aspiration of every person who meets the requirements and wants to go to university.
- To better integrate further and higher education, and ensure high-quality teaching, a post-16 skills strategy will set out the role for different providers, and how students can move between institutions, as well as strengthening regulation.
- Create a secure future for higher education and the opportunities it creates across the UK.

Liberal Democrats



- Reinstatement of maintenance grants for disadvantaged students immediately to make sure that living costs are not a barrier to studying at university.
- Create new Lifelong Skills Grants, giving all adults £5,000 to spend on education and training throughout their lives, and aim to increase them to £10,000 in the future when the public finances allow.
- Introduce a Young People’s Premium, extending Pupil Premium funding to disadvantaged young people aged 16-18.
- Review further education funding, including the option of exempting colleges from VAT.
- Safeguard the future of our world-leading universities and the wellbeing of every student by:



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- Supporting science, research and innovation in universities, including continuing to participate in Horizon Europe and joining the European Innovation Council.
 - Giving higher education institutions a statutory duty of care for their students.
 - Introducing a statutory Student Mental Health Charter and requiring universities to make mental health services accessible to their students.
 - Returning to the Erasmus Plus programme as an associated country.
 - Establishing a review of higher education finance in the next Parliament to consider any necessary reforms in the light of the latest evidence of the impact of the existing financing system on access, participation and quality, and make sure there are no more retrospective raising of rates or selling-off of loans to private companies.
 - Reporting international student flows separately to estimates of long-term migration.

 - Ensuring that all universities work to widen participation by disadvantaged and underrepresented groups across the sector, prioritising their work with students in schools and colleges, and requiring every university to be transparent about selection criteria.
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- Placing vocational education on the same foundations as academic learning in school and university
 - Offer summer schools at each Welsh university for Seren Foundation learners; expanding the current partnerships with Aberystwyth and Cardiff universities and set up new pilots in other Welsh institutions.
 - Review the Seren programme, which aims to support Wales's brightest sixth-formers, to increase the access for learners from disadvantaged backgrounds to take part in the Seren Network.
 - Tuition and maintenance loans at Levels 4, 5 and 6, including for vocational qualifications, will be made available to all adults aged 18 or over, and available in both further and higher education.
 - Investing in lifelong learning by creating a Lifetime Learning Allowance, consisting of a mixture of grants, loans, and a right to free provision.
 - An ambition to make University education free again for all.
 - Work with the sector and the Coleg Cenedlaethol to support personalised and flexible pathways into Higher Education through increased recognition of learning achieved elsewhere, and through promotion of short courses.
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- Work to expand the numbers studying at Welsh universities, attracting greater numbers of Welsh-domiciled students as well as retaining the current number of UK and overseas students.
- Tuition and maintenance loans at Levels 4, 5 and 6, including for vocational qualifications, will be made available to all adults aged 18 or over, and available in both further and higher education.

Manifesto not yet published

Free School meals, disadvantaged pupils, poverty and pupil premium

Conservatives



- EXISTING - Allocate almost £3 billion next year via the pupil premium to support disadvantaged children to reach their full potential

Green Party



- Give all children a daily free school meal, made from nutritious ingredients and based on local and organic or sustainable produce.
- Free breakfast clubs for primary school pupils

Labour Party



- Fund free breakfast clubs in every primary school, accessible to all children. Our breakfast clubs will support parents through the cost-of-living crisis.

Bring down the cost of school by limiting the number of branded items of uniform and PE kit that schools can require

Liberal Democrats



- Introduce a 'Tutoring Guarantee' for every disadvantaged pupil who needs extra support.



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- Invest in high-quality early years education and close the attainment gap by giving disadvantaged children aged three and four an extra five free hours a week and tripling the Early Years Pupil Premium to £1,000 a year.
 - When the public finances allow, give disadvantaged two-year-olds an extra five free hours of early years education a week, as another step towards a universal, full-time entitlement for all two- to four-year-olds.
 - Support the education of children in care, extend Pupil Premium Plus funding to children in kinship care, and guarantee any child taken into care a school place within three weeks, if required to move schools.
 - Extend free school meals to all children in poverty, with an ambition to extend them to all primary school children “when the public finances allow”

Plaid Cymru



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- Campaign for universal free schools meals to be extended to secondary school learners, in years 7 to 11
 - Learners are also affected by the cost of the school day, including transport, uniforms and extra-curricular activities. Reducing these costs is essential. No learner should miss a day of school or miss out on opportunities because of their family’s financial position

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Manifesto not yet published

Accountability

Conservatives



- NEW – ‘Deliver’ new legislation “which will make clear, beyond all doubt, that parents have a right to see what their child is being taught in school and schools must share all materials, especially on sensitive matters like relationships and sex education”
- EXISTING - “Back Ofsted” to provide clear judgments to parents on the quality and safety of schools

Green Party



- End “high-stakes, formal testing” at primary and secondary schools
- Abolish Ofsted
- Move academies and free schools into local authority “control”

Labour Party



- Enhance the inspection regime by replacing a single headline grade with a new report card system telling parents clearly how schools are performing.
- Bring Multi-Academy Trusts into the inspection system and introduce a new annual review of safeguarding, attendance, and off-rolling.

Liberal Democrats



- Reform Ofsted inspections and end single-word judgements so that parents get a clear picture of the true strengths and weaknesses of each school, and schools get the guidance and support they need to improve.
- Implement a new parental engagement strategy, including a regular, published parent survey and guidance for schools on providing accessible information to parents on what their children are learning.
- Appoint a cabinet minister for children and young people.

Plaid Cymru



- Bullying, racism and homophobia within our schools – and wider society - must be stamped out.

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SNP

Manifesto not yet published

Other pledges – Children, Families and Communities

Conservatives



- NEW - Require schools to follow guidance on banning the use of mobile phones during the school day
 - NEW - Legislate to “ensure schools must follow our guidance for teachers on how best to support gender questioning students in schools and colleges”
 - NEW - Extend the PE and sport premium to secondary schools
 - NEW - Increase funding for school games organisers to get more competitive sport into and between schools
 - NEW - Work with sporting bodies to create more UK-wide school competitions like National Finals, to identify the best sporting talents
 - NEW - Ban protests outside schools
 - NEW - Support teachers to “uphold and promote fundamental British values and ensure they are protected from accusations of blasphemy”
 - NEW - Work with Active Travel England to make it safer for people to walk or cycle, ensuring “safe walking routes to schools and measures to protect pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users”, but only if schemes have “local support”
 - EXISTING - Expand strong academy trusts
 - EXISTING - Lift the 50 per cent admissions cap on faith free schools
 - EXISTING - Legislate to create a register of children not in school
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Green Party



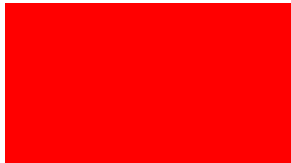
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- EXISTING - Support children in their transition to secondary school and ensure they “continue to receive a broad and enriched education during and after-school, including via our multi-million pound music hubs”
 - EXISTING - Continue to work with schools and local authorities to improve school attendance
 - EXISTING - “Further protect parents’ choice on where to send their child to school, including preserving the rights of independent and grammar schools”

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- Schools to involve children in growing, preparing and cooking food, as part of the core curriculum, so that they recognise and understand how to use basic fresh produce
 - Remove charitable status from private schools and charge full VAT on fees
 - Private school places for children with special education needs will not be subject to VAT. This will be an “interim measure while public-sector capacity is built”
 - Protect school playing fields from development through “rigorous planning controls”
 - Allow access to school sports facilities by local clubs and teams outside teaching hours to ensure “maximum use of a valuable resource”
 - Youth workers rather than police officers work with pupils in schools

Labour Party



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- Establish Skills England to bring together business, training providers and unions with national and local government to ensure we have the highly trained workforce needed to deliver Labour’s Industrial Strategy.
 - Skills England will formally work with the Migration Advisory Committee to make sure training in England accounts for the overall needs of the labour market.
 - Devolving adult skills funding to Combined Authorities, empowering local leaders to have greater control of skills development in their areas, alongside a greater role in supporting people into work.
 - Implement a creative industries sector plan as part of an Industrial Strategy, creating good jobs and accelerating growth in film, music, gaming, and other creative sectors.
 - Improve access to cultural assets by requiring publicly funded national museums and galleries to increase the loans they make from their collections to communities across the country.
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Liberal Democrats



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- Launch a new National Music Education Network – a one-stop shop with information on courses and classes for parents, teachers and children.

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- Set up an independent advocacy body for children’s safety online
 - Tackle persistent absence by setting up a register of children who are not in school, and working to understand and remove underlying barriers to attendance.
 - Tackle bullying in schools by promoting pastoral leadership in schools and delivering high-quality relationships and sex education.

Plaid Cymru



Scottish Nationalist Party



Manifesto not yet published