








Extracts compiled from party manifestos published prior to the July 2024 General Election

This document accompanies one of two articles published on the HE Byte looking at the content of the manifestos relevant to elective home education and to family life, especially in the context of state-funded early years child care.

List of manifestos included and links working at the time of publication:

- Labour Party | [Website](#) – [PDF download](#)
- Conservative Party | [Website](#) – [PDF download](#)
- Liberal Democrats | [Website](#) – [PDF download](#)
- Green Party | [Website](#) – [PDF download](#)
- Reform UK | [Website](#) – [PDF download](#)
- Workers Party of Britain | [Website](#) – no PDF available
- Social Democratic Party | [Website](#) – [PDF download](#)

Key to marked sections

	Early years childcare		Single Unique Identifier
	Could help HE families		CNiS Registers
	Will impact HE families		Note
	Pro-family		



LET'S GET
BRITAIN'S
FUTURE
BACK

 Labour

BREAK DOWN BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY

IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE.

The promise we tell our children and grandchildren that if you work hard and play by the rules, you will get on in life is sadly no longer the case for too many people. Where you are born and how wealthy your parents are too often determines where you end up. We've got to break that link.

And that's not happening. Childcare and early learning is unavailable, inaccessible or unaffordable for too many families, meaning many children arrive at school not ready to learn and early learning goals are being missed. Young people are leaving school without developing core English and maths skills, while creative subjects and skills development are too often being squeezed out. Our schools are faced with teacher shortages, a staff retention crisis, crumbling classrooms and persistent school absences. And there simply aren't enough high-quality pathways onto apprenticeships, and technical education.

Young people are not being prepared for work or for life. They should be supported to develop the skills to shape and use new technologies, to generate ideas to respond to climate change and harness advances in science for all our benefit. Our education system should build confidence and resilience, knowledge and skills and a love of learning to carry throughout life. That way all young people will get the chance to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

THE TORIES HAVE FAILED.

With eight education secretaries in six years, the Tories have neither had leadership nor direction. They have failed to provide the bedrock of security on which opportunity can flourish.

Despite much talk, they have not developed the apprenticeships and skills pathways that will allow for adults to reskill and upskill throughout their life. The result is we have too few people, who have the skills we need for growth.

Our youngest children have seen their learning and development neglected, with two children for every childcare place leaving thousands without access to the early learning that sets them up for life.

Each year one in four children leave primary school behind in maths and in reading, while one in three young people do not pass their maths and English GCSE. At the same time, we've seen the gap in outcomes between children eligible for free school meals and their peers and across different regions widen leaving promises to level-up all talk and little action.

And at the same time the curriculum and assessment system are too narrow so too many young people neither retain a love of learning nor are set up for work and life.

LABOUR HAS CHANGED.

We should all have opportunities and be able to enjoy a good life, with a good job, a secure home and a good standard of living. We see the expansion of opportunity as key to growth – and high and rising standards in education as the best route to enabling everyone to achieve their aspirations.

But it will only happen if we take the tough decisions to overhaul our childcare and early years system, modernise the school curriculum and assessment and rethink vocational education so high-quality technical training is available in all parts of the country.

Labour has a long term plan to expand opportunities

Labour will spread opportunity to all parts of the country at every age and every stage.

Early Years: the best start in life

Childcare is important not just because it helps parents to work, but to give every child the best possible start in life. That is why Labour will improve the quality of provision, and work with local authorities to boost the availability of childcare in places where provision is inadequate. At the same time, we will develop vital communication and maths skills early so that every child can find their voice and build the foundations for a brilliant education.

School: Preparing young people for work and life

Evidence shows that improving teacher quality is the most significant factor to improving children's outcomes. To ensure rising standards in all our schools, we will tackle the chronic staffing crisis in schools by recruiting thousands more teachers particularly in shortage subjects like science and maths. We will reform Ofsted so it gives parents better information, with a scorecard that values breadth and not just a single headline grade.

At the same time, we will reform the curriculum and assessment system so that speaking skills are

taken as seriously as reading and writing, creativity and problem solving are woven throughout and young people have the digital skills needed to thrive.

We will tackle the attendance crisis, ensuring children enjoy and want to be in school again. We will provide the mental health support to back this up and to boost the wellbeing of young people, many of whom still suffering the effects of lockdown. We will ensure all primary children have free breakfast clubs that set them up for the day – so that no child starts the day hungry and there is a safe space to be supported with friends.

Further Education and Lifelong learning

Retraining and up-skilling will need to be locally based and tailored to the needs of each community – plumbers to fit new heat pumps, engineers to lead the application of AI, solar power fitters to harness renewables. That's why we are setting up new Technical Excellence Colleges in all parts of the country so people have the specialist skills local businesses need. And it's why we are transforming the Apprenticeship levy to give employers the flexibility they need to train their workforce in new and relevant skills.



TITO'S STORY



This is Tito. She fell in love with poetry because there was one teacher who truly inspired her. She is grateful to her teacher, Mrs K. Labour will break down the barriers to opportunity by putting a specialist teacher in every classroom funded by ending tax breaks for private schools. So, a one in a million teacher will be joined by thousands more.

What Labour's long term education plan means for you

- Higher standards in schools. Recruiting 6,500 more teachers to ensure every child is taught by a specialist, paid for by ending tax breaks for private schools.
- Better wellbeing for young people. Employing mental health support staff in every school, paid for by ending tax breaks for private schools.
- Giving every child the best start to the day. Introducing free breakfast clubs in every primary school in England, paid for by closing the loophole which allows some mega rich people who live in the UK to avoid paying tax.
- Preparing young people for work and life. Give children greater opportunity to study music, sport and the arts by changing the rules about how schools are held accountable.
- Higher paid jobs through better skills, apprenticeships and training.

Let's turn the page on Tory failure

- Childcare deserts where parents cannot find the childcare they need and children miss out on crucial early learning.
- One in three children not reaching a good level of early development.
- Failure to get the basics right: two in five children leaving primary school behind in maths, reading, or writing.
- Rising persistent school absence which now represents one of the gravest threats to children's life chances.
- Crumbling school buildings and vanishing facilities for sport and creative activities.
- Declining apprenticeship opportunities and falling participation in vocational and skills training.

Extract from:

Break down barriers to opportunity – The Labour Party

Best start in life

<https://labour.org.uk/change/break-down-barriers-to-opportunity/#early-years>

Best start in life

High-quality early education and childcare is a crucial opportunity to transform life chances. Too often it is unavailable, or unaffordable.

As an initial step, Labour will open an additional 3,000 nurseries through upgrading space in primary schools, to deliver the extension of government funded hours families are entitled to.

Supporting children in the early part of their life also means giving parents the flexibility they need to care for their children. Labour will review the parental leave system, so it best supports working families, within our first year in government.

Every child should have a loving, secure home. Labour will work with local government to support children in care, including through kinship, foster care, and adoption, as well as strengthening regulation of the children's social care sector.

Sadly, too often we see families falling through the cracks of public services. Labour will improve data sharing across services, with a single unique identifier, to better support children and families.

The Conservative and Unionist Party Manifesto 2024

CLEAR PLAN
BOLD ACTION
SECURE FUTURE

Bold actions to deliver a secure future for our country and for your family

To support working people and secure a stronger economy

- › **Cut tax for workers** by taking another 2p off employee National Insurance so that we will have halved it from 12% at the beginning of this year to 6% by April 2027, a total tax cut of £1,350 for the average worker on £35,000 – and the next step in our long-term ambition to end the double tax on work when financial conditions allow.
- › Cut taxes to **support the self-employed** by abolishing the main rate of self-employed National Insurance entirely by the end of the Parliament.
- › **Cut tax for pensioners** with the new Triple Lock Plus, guaranteeing that both the State Pension and the tax free allowance for pensioners always rise with the highest of inflation, earnings or 2.5% – so the new State Pension doesn't get dragged into income tax.
- › Give working parents **30 hours of free childcare a week** from when their child is nine months old to when they start school, saving eligible families an average of £6,900 per year.
- › **End the unfairness in Child Benefit** by moving to a household system, so families don't start losing Child Benefit until their combined income reaches £120,000 – saving the average family which benefits £1,500.
- › Cut the cost of net zero for consumers by taking a more pragmatic approach, guaranteeing **no new green levies or charges** while accelerating the rollout of renewables.
- › Seize the **benefits of Brexit** by signing further trade deals, speeding up infrastructure and unblocking 100,000 homes, cutting red tape for business, and creating new fishing opportunities.

To provide young people with a secure future

- › Give young people the skills and opportunities they deserve by introducing **mandatory National Service** for all school leavers at 18, with the choice between a competitive placement in the military or civic service roles.
- › Fund **100,000 high-quality apprenticeships** for young people, paid for by curbing the number of poor-quality university degrees that leave young people worse off.
- › Protect children by requiring schools to **ban the use of mobile phones during the school day** and ensuring parents can see what their children are being taught, especially on sensitive matters like sex education.
- › Transform 16-19 education by **introducing the Advanced British Standard**, enabling young people to receive a broader education and removing the artificial divide between academic and technical learning.

To safeguard our borders and national security

- › **Boost defence spending** to our new NATO standard of 2.5% of GDP by 2030, so we can protect British interests at home and abroad in an increasingly hostile world.
- › Introduce a **legal cap on migration to guarantee that numbers will fall every year**, so public services are protected while bringing in the skills our businesses and NHS needs.
- › **Stop the boats** by removing illegal migrants to Rwanda.
- › Work with other countries to **rewrite asylum treaties** to make them fit for the challenges we face.

To strengthen our communities

- › **Increase NHS spending above inflation every year**, recruiting 92,000 more nurses and 28,000 more doctors, driving up productivity in the NHS and moving care closer to people's homes through Pharmacy First, new and modernised GP surgeries and more Community Diagnostic Centres.
- › Protect female-only spaces and competitiveness in sport by **making clear that sex means biological sex** in the Equality Act.
- › Deliver 1.6 million well-designed homes in the right places while protecting our countryside, permanently **abolish Stamp Duty for homes up to £425,000 for first time buyers** and introduce a new Help to Buy scheme.
- › Recruit **8,000 more full-time, fully warranted police officers** to ensure a new police officer for every neighbourhood.
- › **Cut anti-social behaviour** in town centres by rolling out Hotspot Policing, expanding community payback and legislating to evict social tenants who repeatedly disrupt their neighbours.
- › **Invest £36 billion in local roads, rail and buses** to drive regional growth, including £8.3 billion to fill potholes and resurface roads, funded by cancelling the second phase of HS2.
- › **Back drivers by stopping road pricing**, reversing the London Mayor's ULEZ expansion and applying local referendums to new 20mph zones and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods.
- › **Champion our rural communities** by backing farmers with a legal target and additional investment for food security, and protecting our best agricultural land from solar farms.
- › Continue to **directly invest in communities across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland**, protect the UK's internal market and the integrity of our United Kingdom.

» The Conservatives have a plan to deliver a brighter future for the UK, one where families are supported and children are given the best chance to gain the skills they need to succeed. We are delivering the largest ever expansion of childcare in history:

- » Working parents of two-year-olds are now able to access 15 hours of free childcare, with over 200,000 two-year-olds already benefitting from the offer.
- » From September 2024, eligible parents of children between nine months and two years old will also be able to access 15 hours free childcare.
- » From September 2025, all eligible parents with children from nine months old to when they start school will be able to access 30 hours of free childcare a week.
- » Once the roll out is completed, families will save an average of £6,900 per year.

To help the childcare sector expand we have committed to increasing hourly funding rates over the next two years by an estimated £500 million and are helping the sector, including childminders, to hire more staff, create more places and spend less time on paperwork. And to give working parents more flexibility, we are investing £300 million so that all parents can access wraparound childcare before and after school by September 2026.

But families' needs don't stop when children start primary school, which is why Family Hubs support families all the way up until children reach adulthood. They back families in the early years, helping with things like breastfeeding support, antenatal care and early learning interventions, in addition to services like relationship support, stopping smoking services and youth services. Our plan

has already delivered Family Hubs in over 75 local authorities. We will go further to **deliver a Family Hub in every local authority in England.**

We will improve the experiences of children in social care, because every child deserves to live in a safe and loving home. We will create **more places in children's homes** while prioritising keeping families together where that's best for the child through our Kinship Care Strategy and helping children grow up in loving adoptive families where that is a better option. We will also support those leaving care with housing, education and employment, in addition to expanding befriending and mentoring programmes for care leavers.

Cutting tax for families

In April, we raised the threshold at which individuals begin to lose Child Benefit from £50,000 to £60,000 and halved the rate at which it is withdrawn. This is the right thing for families and the right thing for the economy.

But it still isn't fair that single earner households can start losing their Child Benefit when a household with two working parents and a much higher total income can keep it in full. We will **end this unfairness by moving to a household rather than individual basis for Child Benefit.** So nobody is worse off than under the current system, we will set the combined household income at which a family will start losing Child Benefit at £120,000 and gradually remove it until household income reaches £160,000, above which families will no longer receive Child Benefit. This will benefit over 700,000 households, each gaining an average of £1,480 a year.

» Education is the closest thing we have to a silver bullet, which is why since 2010 we have focused on driving up standards in education. English children are now the best readers in the Western world and are 11th in the world for maths, up from 27th when Labour left office in 2010. Children in England now far outperform their peers in Labour-run Wales and SNP-run Scotland. We will build on this success to make sure every child gets a world-class education and reaches their full potential.

Giving every child the chance to go to a great school

Today, 90% of schools are Good or Outstanding, up from 68% in 2010. School funding is at its highest ever level in real terms per pupil and there are record numbers of teachers, 27,000 more than 2010. The pupil premium, introduced by the Conservatives in 2011, will allocate almost £3 billion next year to support disadvantaged children to reach their full potential. Free school meals have been extended to more groups of children than under any other government over the past half a century. We will build on this progress in the next Parliament by **protecting day-to-day schools spending in real terms per pupil.**

None of this progress has been possible without our great teachers. We have hit our 2019 manifesto commitment to introduce starting salaries of £30,000 and are backing headteachers to manage behaviour and enforce discipline. We will require schools to follow our guidance on **banning the use of mobile phones during the school day**, which

is proven to boost attainment, reduce bullying and support good behaviour in schools. We will attract more talented teachers by expanding our recruitment and retention premium and reducing workload. From this September, **new teachers in priority areas and key STEM and technical subjects will receive bonuses of up to £30,000 tax-free** over five years. We will extend the payments to eligible teachers in our further education colleges. We will always support and celebrate our further education colleges.

We will champion excellence in our classrooms. In primary schools, we will support teachers to use tried and tested techniques, including our world-leading phonics programme and our mastery approach to maths, enabling every child to master the basics before they start secondary school. We will 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.

We will **mandate two hours of PE every week in primary and secondary schools, supported by extending the PE and Sport Premium to secondary schools.** We will increase funding for School Games Organisers to get more competitive sport into and between schools and work with sporting bodies to create more UK-wide **school competitions like National Finals**, to identify the best sporting talents.

To keep pace with our global competitors we will **introduce the Advanced British Standard, a new approach to 16-19 education which will build on the best of A Levels and T Levels.** We will end the artificial and damaging divide between academic and technical education which has persisted for far too long. Every young person will spend more time in the classroom, learning more subjects, including English and maths to 18, as they do in most advanced economies around the world.

For children and young people to benefit from the bold reforms we have made to education, they must be in school. The legacy of Covid

has made this more difficult. We will continue to work with schools and local authorities to improve school attendance, including through more mental health support, building on our plan that is working – there were 440,000 fewer children persistently absent last year

compared to the year before. And to ensure all children are getting a high-quality education, including those who are home schooled, we will **legislate to create a register of children not in school**.

We will work to strengthen the relationship between schools and parents, including by delivering 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. This builds on the progress we have already made, having updated Relationships, Sex and Health Education Guidance to introduce **clear age-limits on what children can be taught** and guarantee the contested

concept of gender identity is not taught to children.

We will **expand strong academy trusts**. This builds on our record to date, where half of all state-funded schools are now academies and over 700 free schools have been delivered, with more in the pipeline. We will further protect parents' choice on where to send their child to school, including preserving the rights of independent and grammar schools. We will lift the cap on faith schools, allowing them to offer more places to children based on faith and encouraging them to expand. We will back Ofsted to provide clear judgements to parents on the quality and safety of schools. We are rebuilding over 500 schools through the School Rebuilding Programme, including rebuilding or refurbishing every school identified to have RAAC.

We will transform education for children with special educational needs, ending the postcode lottery of support by delivering **60,000 more school places and a further 15 new free schools for children with special educational needs**. Instead of penalising independent special schools by taxing them, we will back them because we believe in the right of parents to choose the best education for their child.

A new model of modern National Service

We will **reinvent National Service for this century** to give young people valuable life skills and build a stronger national culture. National Service will be compulsory, so it becomes a rite of passage for every 18-year-old, but **young people will be given a choice**, between:

- › **civicservice**. The equivalent of one weekend a month (25 days a year) volunteering in the community, alongside work or study, for a year. Roles could include special constable, NHS responder or RNLI volunteer; or
- › **militaryservice**. A year-long full-time placement in the armed forces or cyber defence. This placement will be competitive and paid, so our armed forces recruit and train the brightest and the best.

We will establish a Royal Commission, the first in a quarter of a century, to design our modernised National Service. It will be backed by funding rising to £2.5 billion in the final year of the Parliament and a new National Service Act.

Facilitating training and skills at every stage of life

We believe in giving young people the best possible start to their adult lives and going to university is not the only route to success. The Conservatives have prioritised apprenticeships after they were neglected under Labour. Since 2010, we have delivered 5.8 million apprenticeships and have created apprenticeship routes into 70% of occupations, including through degree apprenticeships. We passed new laws requiring children to be taught about technical education opportunities, not just university routes, and have set up 21 Institutes of Technology. We will build on this by **creating 100,000 more apprenticeships**

in England every year by the end of next Parliament.

We will fund this by changing 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. This will protect students from being misled and the taxpayer from having to pay where the graduate can't.

We are committed to delivering the best value for students, so have already reformed student loans to make them fairer, meaning no one will pay back more than what they borrowed in real terms. And we will work with universities to ensure students get the contact hours they are promised and their exams get marked.

We will support the National Citizen Service to help young people build confidence and develop the skills they need to thrive.

We will deliver the Lifelong Learning Entitlement, giving adults the support they need to train, retrain and upskill flexibly throughout their working lives. From the 2025 academic year, adults will be able to apply for loans to cover new qualifications. We will also continue to expand our adult skills programmes, such as Skills Bootcamps which meet skills shortages.



FOR A FAIR DEAL

Manifesto 2024



8 Education

Liberal Democrats believe that education is the best investment we can make in our children's potential and our country's future.

The Conservatives have consistently let down children and parents and neglected schools and colleges. They have failed to grasp the scale of the damage that the Covid pandemic has done to children's learning and mental health.

We will invest in education, starting in the crucial early years and continuing throughout adulthood. We want every child to get the support and attention they need at school, so they leave with the skills, confidence and resilience to be happy and successful – whatever they choose to do next.

We will:

- **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.**
- **Increase school and college funding per pupil above the rate of inflation every year, and end the scandal of crumbling school and college buildings by investing in new buildings and clearing the backlog of repairs.**
- **Introduce a 'Tutoring Guarantee' for every disadvantaged pupil who needs extra support.**
- **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.**
- **Reinstate 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.**

In addition, we will:

- Tackle the crisis in teacher recruitment and retention by:
 - Creating a teacher workforce strategy to ensure that every secondary school child is taught by a specialist teacher in their subject.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Expand provision of extracurricular activities, such as sport, music, drama, debating and coding, starting with a new free entitlement for disadvantaged children.

- 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.

- 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 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 Education, Health and Care Plan.
 - Establishing a new National Body for SEND to fund support for children with very high needs.
- Give 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.
- Redirect capital funding for unnecessary new free schools to help clear the backlog of school repairs.
- Tackle bullying in schools by promoting pastoral leadership in schools and delivering high-quality relationships and sex education.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Safeguard the future of our world-leading universities and the wellbeing of every student by:
 - Supporting science, research and innovation in universities, including continuing to participate in Horizon Europe and joining the European Innovation Council, as set out in chapter 4.
 - 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, as set out in chapter 9.
 - 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.

9 Families, Children and Young People

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the opportunity to flourish, no matter their background or personal circumstances. Protecting their rights and wellbeing as children and ensuring they are properly nourished are top priorities.

Families come in all shapes and sizes, and parents should have the support and flexibility to juggle work with parenting as they see fit.

Flexible, affordable childcare and early years education is a critical part of our economic infrastructure and helps close the attainment gap between rich and poor. It gives parents more choice over how to organise their lives and helps them return to work if they want to. Lack of access to affordable childcare is a key driver of the gender pay gap.

But affordable childcare is only part of the picture. We will also overhaul parental leave to give parents a genuine choice over how to manage things in the first months of their child's life.

We will:

- **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.**
- **Appoint a Cabinet Minister for Children and Young People.**
- **Give parents genuine flexibility and choice in the crucial early months by doubling Statutory Maternity and Shared Parental Pay to £350 a week and introducing an extra use-it-or-lose-it month for fathers and partners, paid at 90% of earnings.**
- **Make all parental pay and leave day-one rights, and extend them to self-employed parents.**

- **Expand opportunities for young people to study, teach and volunteer abroad by returning to the Erasmus Plus programme as an associated country.**

In addition, we will:

- Protect and support the rights and wellbeing of every child by:
 - Incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into UK law.
 - Setting up an independent advocacy body for children's safety online.
 - Addressing the underfunding and neglect of children's mental health services, youth services and youth justice services.
 - Tackling child poverty, as set out in chapter 10.
 - Giving 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote, as set out in chapter 20.
- Ensure that all parents can access childcare that is flexible, affordable and fair by:
 - Reviewing the rates paid to providers for free hours to ensure they cover the actual costs of delivering high-quality childcare and early years education.
 - Developing a career strategy for nursery staff, including a training programme with the majority of those working with children aged two to four to have a relevant Early Years qualification or be working towards one.
 - Including a specific emphasis on identifying and supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities in the new training programme for early years staff.
- Restore childminding as a valued part of the early years system by:
 - Replacing the three different current registration processes with a single childcare register.
 - Commissioning a practitioner-led review to simplify regulation, reduce administrative burdens and attract new childminders while maintaining high standards.
- Give parents genuine flexibility and choice in the crucial early months by:
 - Making all parental pay and leave day-one rights, including for adoptive parents and kinship carers, and extending them to self-employed parents.
 - Doubling Statutory Maternity and Shared Parental Pay to £350 a week.
 - Increasing pay for paternity leave to 90% of earnings, with a cap for high earners.

- Introducing an extra use-it-or-lose-it month for fathers and partners, paid at 90% of earnings, with a cap for high earners.
 - Requiring large employers to publish their parental leave and pay policies.
 - Introducing a 'Toddler Top-Up': an enhanced rate of Child Benefit for one-year-olds.
- In the longer term, when the public finances allow, our ambition is to give all families (including self-employed parents, adoptive parents and kinship carers):
 - Six weeks of use-it-or-lose-it leave for each parent, paid at 90% of earnings.
 - 46 weeks of parental leave to share between themselves as they choose, paid at double the current statutory rate.
- Introduce paid neonatal care leave.
 - Support children in kinship care and their family carers, as set out in chapter 7.
 - Provide free access to sign language lessons for parents and guardians of d/Deaf children.
 - Tackle the backlogs in the family courts that leave children and families waiting nearly a year for cases to be resolved, by making the legal aid system simpler, fairer and more generous as set out in chapter 19.
 - Fully review and reform the Child Maintenance Service to ensure it works for all children and parents, including removing the Collect and Pay charge for receiving parents and ensuring that payments cannot be used as a form of coercive control over domestic abuse survivors.

REAL HOPE. REAL CHANGE.

The Green Party's Manifesto for a Fairer, Greener Country

This general election is taking place during an ongoing cost of living crisis, in an increasingly volatile world. No wonder so many of us feel anxious and are losing hope in the future.

We live in one of the richest countries on the planet, and yet nurses are using food banks, our children's schools are crumbling, a roof over our heads is all too often unaffordable, and a hospital appointment or a dentist is like gold dust.

Our promise to you is that all this can change. We can create a greener, fairer country together – one in which we are all safer, happier and more fulfilled.

It will take MPs prepared to make brave, principled choices on your behalf. And it will take the kinds of policies set out in this manifesto, and for which elected Green MPs will fight hard every single day for you.

The election is also taking place against the background of a climate emergency. Since the last election, there have been an increasing number of days and months in which global temperature increases have breached 1.5°C, an increase that would make human life on earth unliveable.

Despite commitments from the United Nations, national and local governments, corporations and individuals, greenhouse gas emissions are still rising. And our understanding of what this means is increasing too: we know that the social and economic impacts of climate breakdown are already being felt and will continue to be far worse than previously imagined.

As a political party, we believe in offering hope. And we believe in following the science and speaking the truth, too.

This manifesto sets out what we think is achievable given the failure of successive governments to prepare with anything like the urgency and ambition that climate scientists have been telling us is needed for decades.

The current UK commitment to net zero by 2050 fails to reflect that we can – and must – do so much more. That we can and must make the right political choices in order to transition at speed to a decarbonised economy. One that's no longer in hock to the fossil fuel giants, but instead runs on clean, green and cheap renewables. An economy in which it's cheaper to heat our homes, to get out and about and to run a business.

And this manifesto sets out too how fairness can and must run through every part of the change that's coming – from training the new workforce that will be needed to transform our economy, to investing in our vital public services, to lifting all of us up through a compassionate welfare system.

The solutions to the climate crisis are the same as those needed to end the cost of living and inequality crises, making the future not just more liveable but fairer for us all too. Throughout this manifesto, you'll find examples of how climate action means better public services, warmer homes, stronger communities and a restored natural world.

Voting Green on 4th July is your way of showing you believe in our shared future. We believe the ambitious plans we are outlining here are not just possible but essential.

A Green vote is the only vote that counts if you want a secure and happy future on a safe planet. A Green vote means choosing real change and real hope.

Carla & Adrian

Carla Denyer & Adrian Ramsay
Green Party Co-leaders

GREEN PARTY CO-LEADERS

CREATING A FAIRER, GREENER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Education should be about inspiring a love of learning and ensuring that every young person can reach their potential. Yet too many children are struggling to achieve in an education system that operates like a production line rather than valuing children's unique individual qualities.

Schools play an essential role in ensuring that all children have an equal chance to thrive. We must work towards ending child poverty and opening up opportunities to all. No child should be left behind.

For Greens, education is a common good that benefits society as a whole so it should be publicly funded and available to everybody, free of charge, at every stage of life. We will continue to support parents in educating children in settings other than at school.

Green MPs would push for an education system that:

- Is fully inclusive, with better funded support for special educational needs and all children provided with a free school meal.
- Supports every higher education student with the restoration of grants and the end of tuition fees.
- Reduces the stress in our education system by ending high-stakes, formal testing at primary and secondary schools and by abolishing OFSTED.

Early years

Pre-school education should be focused on play and on supporting young children to safely explore the world around them. It can also assist families to access work and other opportunities.

Greens MPs will advocate:

- For £1.4bn per year to be invested by local authorities in Sure Start Centres.
- In negotiation with the sector, to extend the outgoing government's offer of childcare to 35 hours per week from nine months.

Schools

Over a decade of funding cuts, assessment targets and a teacher recruitment crisis have resulted in larger class sizes, fewer educational visits and arts and vocational subjects dropped from the curriculum.

Elected Greens will:

- Advocate for an increase in school funding, with an £8bn investment in schools that would include £2bn for a pay uplift for teachers.
- Ensure that every school building is safe for children by investing £2.5bn a year to tackle the RAAC concrete scandal and provide the funding needed for schools to be well-maintained and fit for purpose.
- 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.
- Ensure effective delivery of the new Natural History GCSE.
- Move academies and free schools into local authority control, removing charitable status

from private schools and charging 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.

- Retain a full, evidence-based and age-appropriate programme of Relationships, Sex and Health Education, including LGBTIQ+ content and resources.
- Protect provision of free school breakfast clubs for all primary school pupils.

Special educational needs

Green MPs will push for £5bn to be invested 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.

Child health and wellbeing

Green MPs will:

- Fully restore the role of the school nurse, ensuring that all schools have access to an on-site medical professional.
- Give children and students at all state-funded schools and colleges access to a qualified counsellor.

Post-16 and Further Education

The world of work is changing fast. Fewer young people will experience only one career and workplace in their lives. Education and training must be accessible, and better designed to support lifelong learning.

Green MPs will push for:

- A £3bn increase in funding for sixth-form education over the next parliamentary term, and a £12bn investment in skills and lifelong learning for further education.
- The restoration of the Education Maintenance Allowance to financially support young people to extend their studies after the age of 16.

Higher Education

Marketisation has been disastrous for Higher Education, changing the relationships between students and academic faculty, pushing universities into financial crisis, and burdening a whole generation of students with debts so high that they are ruining their life chances.

We would fully fund every higher education student, restoring maintenance grants and scrapping undergraduate tuition fees. Our long-term plans also include seeking to cancel the injustice of graduate debt.

Elected Greens will work with the higher education sector to tackle the challenges posed by changes to employer contributions for the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS).

(In Wales, Education is devolved to the Welsh Government.)



Our Contract with You



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Britain has one of the Highest Family Breakdown Rates in the Western World

“Putting families first. Britain’s future depends on our young people.”

Reform UK believes that strong families are the bedrock of a thriving society – we will support family formation and give parents back control.

CRITICAL REFORMS NEEDED IN THE FIRST 100 DAYS:

Support Marriage Through the Tax System

As soon as finances allow, introduce a UK 25% transferable marriage tax allowance. This would mean no tax on the first £25,000 of income for either spouse. This will help make work pay and incentivise people trapped on benefits back into the workplace.

Choice for Stay-at-Home Mums or Dads

The majority of mothers would choose to stay at home more if they could. Front-loading the Child

Benefit system for children aged 1-4 would give parents the choice to spend more time with their children.

Mandate Single Sex Spaces

Public toilets and changing areas must provide single sex facilities.

Promote Child Friendly App Restricted Smartphones

Social media is associated with eating disorders, anxiety, depression, suicide and the child mental health crisis. Launch an inquiry into social media harms.

Thereafter:

Review the Online Safety Bill

Social media giants that push baseless transgender ideology and divisive Critical Race theory should have no role in regulating free speech.



CHILDREN & FAMILIES PLEDGES COSTS = £8 BILLION PA

Workers Party of Britain

Manifesto – Britain Deserves Better

The Workers Party Congress in 2023 began the process of developing a Manifesto. With by-elections and a general election in the months ahead, this gives you an idea of where we stand on key issues. The Workers Party thanks all those who submitted comments and feedback.

The Workers Party of Britain:

- is committed to the redistribution of wealth and power in favour of working people.
- is committed to a reversal of policies aimed at deindustrialisation & to exploring innovative demands for workers control and participation in the future of industry through our trade unions.
- supports the call for a Net Zero Referendum as soon as possible to create a national debate on who profits from these targets and on what terms. We will oppose ULEZ initiatives because of the costs they impose on working households and small businesses.
- promises to undertake a major review of pensions policy with the ultimate aim of restoring a life-long commitment through earnings to adequate pension provision with all workers having the option of retiring at 60.
- will legislate to support workers and managers in the acquisition of productive enterprises and their assets that otherwise would be closed or distributed to shareholders where the company is either intended to be sold to a foreign owner or to be closed in order to export production overseas.
- supports campaigning to preserve the right to use cash. We are not Luddites when it comes to digital currency and fintech – our demand, however, is that this and other technologies, including blockchain and artificial intelligence, are under sufficient community control to ensure positive social and economic outcomes for the working class and the vulnerable.
- will immediately increase the personal tax threshold for the poorest paid, removing tax entirely from the first £21,200 of wages for two million low-paid workers, and at the same time we commit to a one-off wealth tax on all estates valued fairly at over £10 million to make a start on redressing the colossal gap between the wealthiest 1% and the rest of the population.
- will ensure working class representation throughout the governance of the Bank of England.
- will fully renationalise the NHS and commit to significant spending on social and economic infrastructure and implement major efficiency savings.
- will take a decisive role in the pharmaceuticals industry on which our NHS depends. An entirely private pharmaceuticals industry is inimical alongside a public health system. Without close monitoring and significant control, it offers a recipe for profiteering at best and dangerous malpractice at worst.
- will support Britain's children by committing to free public travel arrangements, mirroring those that currently exist for children in London by offering them to the rest of the country. Furthermore, we will support the provision of free good quality and nutritious breakfast and lunch meals during term time to all children in school without means testing.
- by committing to a review of policing priorities, will support a refocus on street safety and estate crime as an antidote to policing by Twitter and criminalising speech and thought.
- makes no apology for our support for Palestine and the people of Gaza during the current brutal onslaught which has been enabled by Labour and Tories alike. We call for a single state in which all those born in Palestine-Israel can live in peace with equal rights.
- is committed to offering a long term and well organised socialist alternative to the corrupt Labour Party, which is now nothing more than a wolf in sheep's clothing.
- will undertake a thoroughgoing review of our defence and foreign policy.
- is calling for a referendum on membership of NATO with a view to a national debate on all our collective security arrangements. Our own position is clear – under current circumstances, we will continue to campaign for Britain to leave NATO as a clear and present danger to the security of the British population and seek new collective security arrangements centred on the protection of peoples and not of states or industries.

... and we offer so much more than this ...

[10 sections omitted]

Britain and its society

The material conditions of working-class children are critical to their success although, of course, education is more than this. Nevertheless, adequate housing and social protection are key to meeting working class educational aspirations.

We will ensure that no working class child is disadvantaged because of their background or locality and that those that want to get on are actively encouraged at any time in their lives to learn and apply their skills. Education is a key social infrastructure. This means small class sizes, teachers being trusted to teach without administrative nonsense, investment in extra-curricular subjects like the arts and music as well as sports, an atmosphere of equitable encouragement of all according to their abilities, increased safe online learning and zero tolerance towards bullying and abuse.

Two of our flagship policies are focused on children's key material needs: first, we are committed to the extension of the free public travel arrangements for children from London to the rest of the country extending the current age restrictions from 11 to 16; second, we support the provision of free good quality and nutritious breakfast and lunch meals during term time to all children in school without means testing and the introduction of access to low cost but nutritious meals out of term time in targeted deprived areas.

To the Workers Party of Britain, education is a life-long process. We deplore the way that a Labour Government became complicit in turning it into a global capitalist business churning huge numbers of young people at home and overseas with worsening standards under increasingly stressed academics and creating an indebted intellectual underclass.

We would change the model for education entirely. First, by guaranteeing a right to a free tuition first degree that could be taken at any time during one's life so as to end the pressure for young people to take on debt before they have an idea what they want to do with their lives. Tuition fees will be a thing of the past and debt for low income graduates increasingly remitted.

We would financially support vocational education, apprenticeships and trades education that met the aspiration of any worker to get employment that could allow them to live a better standard of living in an economy that may require frequent changes in skills. *This area is so important to us that we will be providing a separate supplemental **Mini-Manifesto on Youth and Education** with the same force as this Manifesto in due course.*

NB: The Mini-Manifesto did not seem to be available a week before the election

[3 sections omitted]

Supporting the family

Profit-seeking business provides (often unstable) jobs and consumer products and services but it free rides society. It treats labour as just another input. We see the results in the degradation of community and the way that individuals are atomised. This becomes of critical importance when we look at the bed rock of society – the working class family. Presenting work as liberation and appealing to the very reasonable desire of women to have an equal and independent existence, liberal society and business have forced us into a very unequal situation where parents sometimes work not only twice over but with multiple jobs just to keep children housed, fed and clothed.

While the Workers Party of Britain is absolutely committed to equal participation of men and women in the work place, it must not be under exploitative conditions or at the expense of children or family life. Child-rearing is not a side issue. It is one of immense social importance. It is a job in its own right. Stable, happy children contribute to a stable, happy society with less social costs such as crime and poor productivity. Well heeled middle class children often do better at school not because they are 'brighter' (we reject that absolutely) but because working class children often never get the chance to 'shine' in households constantly struggling to make ends meet. This must change.

Our policy is one of social investment integrated with our cradle-to-the-grave welfare commitment. We will make it much easier for families to be able to afford to have children in safe, supportive and secure conditions and to care for elderly relatives in their own households through our redistributive economics, our housing policies and through material incentives. We will extend the period in which at least one parent in a household can spend free time caring for children under seven without material loss. We reject that anti-human negative stance towards children of radical Greens and many liberals. We will support not only families with children but young people wanting to start a family earlier.

We will undertake a review of the tax system to stop the penalisation of single earner households which drives parents into two low wage jobs simply to keep the labour force cheap for business. The tax system as it is currently constructed deliberately discourages working class commitment to taking on social burdens and build a healthy society and it deters working class aspiration. At the same time, the Workers Party of Britain will invest in the continued education and training of mothers or fathers or other carers during the vital early years of family life and while caring for elderly relatives. We will bring back workers into the economy without them being disadvantaged in their careers by their absence from the work force.

We remain committed to private choice of lifestyle and religion but with the proviso that social services be properly funded to be able to deal with those cases where families are truly dysfunctional. We see the state educational system as vital in encouraging the personal and individual development of children and adolescents. We will therefore prioritise state education, with particular emphasis on early stage educational childcare provision which has to be more than 'child minding'. We will also remove the charitable status of all private educational establishments.

[9 sections omitted]

Relevant sections copied and pasted from:

Workers Party Manifesto - Britain Deserves Better

<https://workerspartybritain.org/manifesto-britain-deserves-better>



Homecoming

The Social Democratic Party
General Election Manifesto 2024

SDP
Social Democratic Party

FAMILY

Government must defend and support traditional family life whenever possible, particularly in welfare and economic policy, education and housing. We will shelter British families from the economic and social pressures fracturing our society and seek to rebuild a prosperous and happier nation with policies that place the family at the heart of national life.

- The tax and benefit system will offer greater protection and support for family life. Couples raising children together (comprising a basic rate tax payer and a non tax payer) will benefit from full sharing of tax allowances.
- The fundamental aim of national housing policy shall be to ensure that young people seeking to start a family will be able to find a suitable, affordable home in which to do so.
- Married families will be given preference in council house and social housing allocation, which will be increased. Safe, staffed accommodation will be provided by the state for vulnerable young unpartnered parents, including education, training support and parenting skills. Absent parents will pay child maintenance in all cases.
- All parents of dependent children under school age may elect to work from home three days a week for at least two years, unless the nature of their work makes this impracticable.
- When making staff redundancies, employers will be expected to take into account family circumstances, and parents supporting children under 16 will be accorded the same protection as groups presently protected under anti-discrimination legislation.
- Parenting and household management skills will be made the centrepiece of the Wellness (formerly PSHE: Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum in all schools.
- Government policy in all domains will be subject to the basic test as to whether it is supportive of the family as the foundation of society.
- Government funding for women's and men's refuges shall be increased and a national helpline will be established to help tackle all forms of domestic abuse.

SCHOOLS

A thriving democracy depends upon an informed people: able to reason well, feel part of society, contribute to the economy, and live the fullest life possible. Children must be taught what they need for their chosen course in life, rather than corralled into academic courses which do not allow them to maximise their personal progress. We require excellence in academic education and increased opportunities for technical education.

- New grammar schools will be established across the country in regional towns with relative disadvantage. Students will be admitted to these via examination and teacher assessment at KS3 (age 14).
- Free school meals will be provided to all state school educated children during term time only.
- A new subject, Wellness, will be introduced to the national curriculum in place of the current PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic). This will instruct students in good psychological and lifestyle habits, including nutritional and physical fitness goals, money management, home economics, cyberhealth, self-control, good manners, and the destructiveness of drugs.
- Schools will provide more options for those who are best suited to vocational and technical programmes, as well as academic courses. This means increasing the number of students doing BTEC programmes and increasing access for students to move into employment through this pathway.
- Employers who take on a graduate apprentice from a technical school / BTEC programme at the age of 16 will receive a rebate of 25% of the first year's wages for that employee. Employers who take on a school leaver without a basic qualification will be rebated 75% of the apprenticeship wage for two years, subject to a suitable training programme.
- Suitable technical courses (equivalent to the current BTEC Level 3 at age 18) will be the normal requirement for acceptance into paid on-job training for public sector roles such as nursing and policing, which presently require degree courses.
- We will reinforce the teaching of British history, politics, geography and literature up to GCSE level. Teaching in humanities subjects will be balanced and honest, and reflect Britain's important contribution to the world in the context of its time. Teachers will avoid advocacy of unorthodox or sectarian agendas.
- A national programme of resources and online support will be developed for parents who wish to home-school their children. Children who are home-schooled will sit invigilated key stage examinations and undergo safeguarding and socialisation checks at the appropriate ages.
- Arbitrary limits on school exclusions will be scrapped. Students who are excluded for persistent disruptive behaviour will attend specialist schools where additional psychological and parenting support will be provided.