

2017 General Election: education policies

	Conservatives	Labour	Liberal Democrats
School budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase schools budgets by £4 billion by 2022 and retain the Pupil Premium. • Ensure that no school has its budget cut as a result of the new funding formula. • Offer a free school breakfast to every primary school child. Free school lunches to continue for children from low-income families in primary and secondary education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverse the Conservatives' cuts and ensure that all schools have the resources they need by introducing a fairer funding formula that leaves no school worse off. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverse all cuts to front-line school and college budgets, protecting per-pupil funding in real terms. • Introduce a fairer national funding system with a protection for all schools, so that no school loses money. • Protect the Pupil Premium. • Extend free school meals to all children in primary education and promote school breakfast clubs.
Primary and secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Free Schools programme, building a hundred new Free Schools a year. Councils prohibited from creating new places in 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' schools. • Universities wanting to charge the highest levels of tuition fees will have to sponsor these new free schools. • Establish a specialist maths school in every major English city through new funding arrangements. • At least 100 independent schools to become involved in academy sponsorship or founding free schools, with the option of reassessing independent schools' tax status if progress is not made. • Lift legislation preventing the establishment of new faith and selective schools, i.e. grammars. • Conduct a review of school admissions policy to assess their impact on lower-income families. • Every 11-year-old expected to know their times tables off by heart. • Establish a "curriculum fund" to encourage the UK's leading cultural and scientific institutions to develop curriculum materials and ensure that assessments at the end of primary school draw from a rich knowledge base and reduce teaching to the test. • Improve schools' accountability at key stage 3. • Consider how Ofsted can give parents more information on what their children are being taught. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce class sizes to less than 30 for all five, six, and seven- year-olds. • Provide free school meals for all primary school children, paid for by removing the VAT exemption on independent school fees. • Abandon plans to reintroduce baseline assessments and set-up a commission to review KS1 and KS2 SATs. • Extend schools-based counselling to all schools to improve children's mental health, at a cost of £90 million per year. • Scrap plans for schools to pay the apprenticeship levy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give local authorities responsibility for local school places planning and repeal the rule that all new state-funded schools must be free schools or academies. • Scrap the expansion of grammar schools and allow Ofsted to inspect both local authorities and academy chains. • All new policies to be assessed for their impact on special educational needs students. • Introduce a curriculum entitlement – a slimmed down core national curriculum 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)" • Encourage greater co-operation between employers and schools. • Prioritise primary progress measures instead of floor thresholds and work with the profession to reform tests at 11. • Include promoting wellbeing as a statutory duty of a school, to be part of the Ofsted inspection framework.
Early years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the teaching of literacy and numeracy in the early years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overhaul the existing childcare system in which subsidies are given directly to parents who often struggle to use them, and transition to a system of high-quality childcare places in mixed environments with direct government subsidy. • Maintain current commitments on free hours and make significant capital investment during the first two years of government, to ensure that the places exist to meet demand. • Phase in subsidised provision on top of free-hour entitlements, to ensure that everyone has access to affordable childcare, no matter their working pattern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Early Years Pupil Premium to £1,000 per pupil per year. • Aim to have a qualified early years teaching professional in every setting by 2022. • Extend free childcare to all two-year-olds and to the children of working families from the end of paid parental leave, and encourage new fathers to take time off with an additional month's paid paternity leave.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition to a qualified, graduate-led workforce, by increasing staff wages and enhancing training opportunities. • Extend the 30 free hours to all two year-olds, and move towards making some childcare available for one year-olds and extending maternity pay to 12 months. • Halt the closures of Sure Start centres and increase the amount of money available for Sure Start. 	
Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspend student debt repayments for teachers. • Provide support for teachers in lesson preparation and marking, including through use of technology. • Create a single jobs portal for teaching professionals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle recruitment and retention crisis by ending public sector pay cap, allowing teachers to have greater involvement in the curriculum, and tackling concerns over workload. • Reintroduce the Support Staff Negotiating Body and consult on teacher sabbaticals and industry placements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various ways to aid recruitment and retention including, ending 1% cap on teachers' pay rises, guaranteeing all teachers will be qualified or working towards QTS, introducing properly funded CPD, supporting planning of initial teacher training places, tackling workload and continuing to work with the Education Endowment Foundation to establish the evidence base on what works in teaching.
FE and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace existing technical qualifications with T-levels covering fifteen routes in different subjects. Teaching hours will also be increased by 50%, and further investment in the facilities and equipment of further education colleges. • Establish new institutes of technology, supported by employers and leading universities, specialising in technical disciplines and also providing apprenticeships and courses for employers. • Launch a major review of funding across tertiary education. • Double the Immigration Skills Charge levied on companies employing migrant workers to £2,000 a year by the end of the parliament, with revenues from this charge invested in training UK workers. • Skills Advisory Panels and Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure that colleges deliver the skills required by local businesses. • Re-affirmed commitment to create three million apprenticeships by 2020 and involve larger firms in sponsoring apprentices. • Introduce a right to lifelong learning in digital skills, as there is for literacy and numeracy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide free, lifelong education in FE to allow retraining at any point in life • Scrap Conservative plans for new technical colleges and redirect this funding into recruiting further FE teachers, and improve careers advice in the FE sector. • Provide funding for 16 to 18-year-olds in line with KS4 baselines. • Restore the Educational Maintenance Allowance. • Replace Advanced Learner Loans and upfront course fees with direct funding, making FE courses free at the point of use, including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses. • Encourage co-operation between colleges and sixth forms • Aim for all teaching staff to hold teaching qualifications within five years. • Support the Apprenticeship Levy but with several conditions, including the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to provide an annual report on quality outcomes to the Secretary of State, giving employers more flexibility in how the levy is deployed, protecting the £440m funding for apprenticeships for small-and-medium sized employers and consulting on introducing incentives for large employers to over-train numbers of apprenticeships to fill skills gaps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to meet all basic skills needs including literacy, numeracy and digital skills by 2030. • Double the number of businesses which hire apprenticeships and ensure the Apprenticeship Levy is spent on a wider range of training. • Develop national colleges as national centres for expertise in a given areas
HE and research and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest 2.4% of GDP in R&D within 10 years, with a longer term goal of 3%. Universities will be able to make use of new, aggregated research funds to fund research. • Launch a National Productivity Investment Fund of £23 billion to be spent on housing, R&D, economic infrastructure and skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reintroduce maintenance grants for university students and abolish university tuition fees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstate maintenance grants for the poorest students and establish a review of higher education to consider necessary reforms based on the latest evidence and research. • Require universities to widen participation and access. • Reinstate quality assurance for universities applying for degree-awarding powers.



Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental health: publish a green paper on young people’s mental health before the end of this year and introduce mental health first aid training for teachers in every primary and secondary school by the end of the parliament,	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a National Education Service (NES) for England that supports cradle-to-grave learning that is free at the point of use. The NES will have jurisdiction over all forms of education, from early years through to life-long learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that teaching staff have the training to identify mental health issues and that schools provide immediate access for pupil support and counselling.• Establish a new online Family University, supported by leading organisations such as the BBC and Open University, to provide every family with advice and guidance for learning and parenting at home.
--------------	--	--	---

Find out more about how the National Literacy Trust Network supports schools to develop outstanding literacy provision by providing literacy leaders with tools, resources and inspiration www.literacytrust.org.uk/network