

The Labour Party

(Manifesto: <http://www2.labour.org.uk/uploads/TheLabourPartyManifesto-2010.pdf>)

Education (page 25)

Education:

“To raise standards, promote excellence and narrow achievement gaps by giving the best school leaders and federations more schools to run, and by giving parents new rights and clear guarantees of high-quality teaching and support for every pupil — underpinned by increased spending.”

Teachers:

“We ... will build on success with a new right for every teacher to continuous professional development; in return they will have to demonstrate high standards of teaching to maintain their licence to practise. We will promote new Teacher Training Academies and £10,000 ‘golden handcuffs’ to attract the best teachers into the most challenging schools.”

Language Policy:

“**Primary schools: no child left behind:** All primary schools will teach a modern foreign language. We will create a specialist Mandarin teacher training qualification, so that many more primary schools have access to a qualified primary teacher able to teach Mandarin.”

“**Secondary schools: excellence for all, personal to each:** More young people will be able to study single science subjects and modern foreign languages. Diplomas will strengthen the status and quality of vocational study and bring together academic and vocational programmes.”

The Conservative Party

(Manifesto: http://media.conservatives.s3.amazonaws.com/manifesto/cpmanifesto2010_hires.pdf)

Raise Standards in Schools (page 151)

Education:

“We will improve standards for all pupils and close the attainment gap between the richest and poorest. We will enhance the prestige and quality of the teaching profession, and give heads and teachers tough new powers of discipline. We will restore rigour to the curriculum and exam system and give every parent access to a good school.”

Teachers:

“We will take steps to enhance the status of the teaching profession and ensure it attracts the best people. Schools – especially struggling ones – must be able to attract the best teachers and subject specialists, so we will give all head teachers the power to pay good teachers more. We will expand Teach First and introduce two new programmes – Teach Now, for people looking to change career, and Troops to Teachers, for ex-service personnel – to get experienced, high-quality people into the profession.”

Language Policy:

Not mentioned specifically.

The Liberal Democrats

(Manifesto: http://network.libdems.org.uk/manifesto2010/libdem_manifesto_2010.pdf)

A fair start for all children (page 32)

Education:

“We will provide a fair start for all children by giving schools the extra money they need to cut class sizes and provide additional one-to-one teaching, and by setting schools free to give all children the best possible education. We will scrap unfair university tuition fees so everyone has the chance to get a degree, regardless of their parents’ income.”

Teachers:

"Improve teacher training by increasing the size of the school-based Graduate Teacher Programme and support the expansion of Teach First to attract more top graduates into teaching. We will improve training for existing teachers over the course of their careers to keep them up to date with best practice."

Language Policy:

"We will:

- Create a General Diploma to bring GCSEs, A-Levels and high quality vocational qualifications together, enabling pupils to mix vocational and academic learning.
- Give 14–19 year-olds the right to take up a course at college, rather than at school, if it suits them better. This will enable all children to choose to study, for example, separate sciences or modern languages at GCSE, or a vocational subject."

The Green Party

(Manifesto: <http://policy.greenparty.org.uk/downloads/mfssed.pdf>)

Education**Education:**

"In accordance with general Green Party principles, decisions about education will be devolved to the most local level that is possible. However in order to ensure equal opportunities, accessibility and standardisation of qualifications there will be a need for monitoring by Local Authorities regarding issues such as the quality of education, the range of options offered and consistency of internal assessment."

Teachers:

"Teachers are the key resource within the education system. They need first class initial preparation, continuing professional development and appropriate salaries... A Green government will work with the teaching unions to reverse the process by which teachers have gradually been deskilled and their professional autonomy eroded."

Language Policy:

"Children and young people will be entitled to experience of: ...

- c. The development of essential numeracy and literacy skills and the existing core subjects including scientific literacy, technical understanding and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills...
- g. Learning at least one additional language from the age of 7"

Plaid Cymru

(Manifesto: <http://www.plaidcymru.org/uploads/publications/467.pdf>)

Educating the nation (page 13)**Education:**

"The future of our economy depends on a well-educated, highly-skilled workforce... We are committed to an early years' curriculum - the Foundation Phase - which emphasises learning through play... We want to develop and enhance the Welsh Baccalaureate and we will continue to oppose Foundation Schools on principle... We will not support any further increases in tuition fees, and will seek the abolition of tuition fees as and when public finances allow."

Teachers:

Not mentioned specifically.

Language Policy:

"We support the introduction of a compulsory modern language GCSE in secondary schools."

UK Independence Party

(Manifesto: <http://www.ukip.org/media/pdf/UKIPManifesto2010.pdf>)

Education & Training (page 8)

Education:

"UKIP believes it is the responsibility of the State to ensure a quality education is provided for all - regardless of income, age, aptitudes or ability. UKIP will...

- Increase parental choice in school education and make schools more answerable to parents.
- Insist schools teach the 'three Rs' effectively and introduce simple reading tests at age 7.
- Return to a student grant system, as opposed to student loans."

Teachers:

"UKIP will...

- Replace current teacher training with more on-the-job training, and insist on higher qualifications for aspiring teachers...
- Allow teachers to do their jobs with minimal government interference. Ofsted will be abolished and its powers transferred to school governing bodies and a new independent Educational Inspectorate made up of experienced teachers.

Language Policy:

"All cultures, languages and traditions from around the British Isles will be celebrated."

Scottish National Party

(Manifesto: <http://www.snp.org/manifestos/westminster/2010>)

Education:

"Scottish students will get new financial support, with a £30 million package to increase their income through grants and loans. The SNP will not introduce tuition fees or top up fees... we are strengthening education for young people through the 16+ Learning Choices to offer a place of learning to every young person as they reach the end of their compulsory school years... and we are also working to improve the life chances of young Scots, with an increase in the number of free hours of nursery education."

Teachers:

Not mentioned specifically.

Language Policy:

Not mentioned specifically.

Sinn Féin

Manifesto not yet available.

SDLP

(Manifesto: http://www.sdlp.ie/images/files/41562_Manifesto_Final.pdf).

"The SDLP will work to ensure certainty for children, teachers and parents. To protect our children we will:

- Ensure better cooperation between the departments of Education and Employment and Learning to cater for disabled young people as they transfer from school to further education and employment.

- Continue to lead the campaign against the removal of support for those children with Special Education Needs.
- Press for the prioritising of early intervention strategies.
- Fight to ensure parity of Surestart provision with England.
- Extend the provision of free nursery places to all 3 and 4 year olds.
- Implement a NEET prevention strategy providing necessary resources to tackle the growing numbers of children and young people Not in Education, Employment or Training."

Teachers:

"The SDLP will work to ensure certainty for children, teachers and parents. To protect our children we will:

- Challenge the Minister to assist young teachers to find full time employment."

Language Policy:

"The SDLP will continue to fight for the introduction of an Irish Language Act, through the introduction of our own private member's legislation if necessary."

UUP

(Manifesto: <http://www.voteforchangenir.com/manifesto/index.php>).

Education:

"The evidence suggests that the removal of academic selection in Northern Ireland would not promote opportunity for all or eliminate underachievement, so Conservatives and Unionists will continue to support academic selection in Northern Ireland. We will work with our Ulster Unionist Assembly colleagues... to publish a cross-cutting early years strategy to tackle educational underachievement. We also support the extension of the specialist schools programme with the aim of making every post-primary school outside the grammar sector a specialist school."

Teachers:

"We believe that head teachers and boards of governors are best placed to manage schools and to promote and protect a school's ethos. We also believe that head teachers are best placed to raise standards of behaviour in schools and we will work to stop heads being overruled by bureaucrats when it comes to expulsions and discipline."

Language Policy:

Not mentioned specifically.

DUP

(Manifesto: <http://www.dup.org.uk/default.htm>).

Education:

"Key Goals: **EDUCATION:** Pilot Child-Parent Centres based on Chicago model - Extra funding in primary schools and more classroom assistants - Enhanced extended schools programmes – Increase youth services budget - Pupils matched to post-primary school on basis of ability - End special privileges for integrated and Irish medium sectors - Single body to own and promote controlled schools.

FURTHER EDUCATION: Establish vocational sector-specific training centres of excellence - Assist businesses to offer high quality apprenticeships - Produce more skilled craftsmen.

HIGHER EDUCATION: UK-wide review of number of universities, student places and subjects offered - Remove cap on NI student numbers - Re-establish independence of universities."

Teachers:

"A review should be conducted locally of teacher training and Continuing Professional Development in numeracy and literacy... Teachers should have equal opportunities to work in all sectors, particularly if a single employing authority is to be created. The DUP advocates a single body both to own and promote controlled schools as the most effective model and one which offers equality with other sectors. Those working in education have endured an unprecedented amount of change in recent years. Such change must be phased and appropriately planned."

Language Policy:

“• There will be no Irish Language Act.”

BNP

(Manifesto: http://bnp.org.uk/pdf_files/BNP-Manifesto-2010-online.pdf).

Education:

“* The BNP will reverse the budget cuts on education & prioritise this sector as vital to the rebuilding of our nation.

* The BNP will bring back traditional syllabi and teaching methods to replace the current and obviously failed systems currently being used.

* The BNP will bring back streaming and grammar schools.

* The BNP will bring back academic and sporting competition at all levels of education.

* The BNP will offer free university education to deserving students who have completed their period of Community Service.”

Teachers:

“- We shall gradually eliminate bureaucracy in schools and reallocate the saving in salaries to the hiring of teachers and the purchase of textbooks and learning materials.

- We shall also return authority to teachers and headmasters and place greater emphasis on training young people in the industrial and technological skills required by the modern world.”

Language Policy:

“- We shall legislate to ensure the only languages permitted in local and national governmental documents and papers will be English, Welsh, Cornish, Manx and Gaelic, where applicable. The employment of native languages on the part of ethnic minorities in their own homes, schools and institutions will be encouraged.”
