

POLICY

Education

Lifelong Learning

ONE WORLD. ONE CHANCE.
Vote Green Party 

The Green Party believes that education should provide everyone with the knowledge and skills they require to be able to fully participate and contribute to the society in which they live. Not just academic knowledge, but social skills, life skills, and respect for other people's rights and lifestyles.

Creating a healthy sustainable society will involve creative thinking and the ability to solve problems.

Children start school as eager learners. By the end of their school career, too many have no or few positive outcomes, and no desire to continue any formal education. Some have been excluded or have stopped attending.

Those who do well in school tests emerge into a society that has a narrow view of education as a collection of marketable certificates. This reflects the view of other parties that education is important solely as a means to enable Britain to compete in the global economy.

The Green Party wants a state funded education system which:

- Provides essential numeracy and literacy skills
- Promotes a sense of responsibility, confidence and respect in all young people

- Caters for all specialisms and needs, inspiring a hunger for learning in all areas: academic and non-academic, thus empowering young people to pursue what they are good at rather than what is expected of them
- Promotes a sense of community so that children are proud to attend their local school
- Promotes a healthy lifestyle through good diet and exercise.

What would you do with the National Curriculum?

The National Curriculum is currently restrictive in many areas and we would not support it in its current form. Children are more empowered and better learners when given more choice and allowed to explore their individual needs and interests.

How would you measure school performance?

We would abolish the system of SATs and league tables – education is not a competitive sport. They put unnecessary pressure on schools without leading to a better all-round education. We would like to see a system of self-evaluation for schools, monitored by the local education authority.

What is your position on grammar and public schools?

We would remove charitable status of all such schools and offer state funding to them so they will be accessible to all children in the local area.

Would disabled people and people with special educational needs attend mainstream schools?

All children will be given the opportunity to attend their local school, which will provide diverse support for people with special needs. In special cases and in accordance with the child's wishes there may be a need for segregation, which will be provided as a unit within the school.

What is your position on faith schools?

Education should include a celebration and recognition of religious diversity and spirituality. To this end all schools, both state-controlled and privately run will be required to embrace a multi-faith perspective throughout the delivery of the curriculum, as well as respecting the rights of children to adopt a secular world view should they wish to.

What would you do about truancy, exclusion and bad behaviour in classrooms?

Truancy, bad behaviour and exclusions often stem from a 'onesize-fits-all' education. We would reduce class sizes,

enabling more individual support. For persistent bad behaviour, there may be temporary segregation and extra support would be given both inside and outside school. By promoting a healthier lifestyle and providing a school curriculum appropriate to the children's needs with greater freedom, truancy and bad behaviour will improve and children will feel more motivated to learn.

Do you oppose City Academies and Trust Schools?

Yes, since we believe that schools should be governed in the interests of children and parents and not private individuals, businesses or religions.

How would you recruit and retain more teachers?

We would allow teachers greater freedom and, to remove one of the main reasons teachers leave teaching, ensure their paperwork is greatly reduced.

What is your position on tuition fees and student loans?

A: Students will not have to pay tuition fees under green party policy. The Green Party supports grants not loans, providing a basic income sufficient for needs while in full time education.

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