



# A manifesto for education

**Invest in our children**  
**Vote for education**





# Something has gone wrong with education

- It is underfunded.
- There are not enough teachers.
- Testing takes precedence over learning.

## And worse is threatened

- Prolonged cuts to schools.
- Deeper poverty.
- More selection and fewer opportunities.

Teachers work hard to get the best for their pupils. But the Government is offering them a future that resembles the past. Our manifesto is for the millions who do not want education to be like this.

We want a campaign to defend and rescue education from the worst crisis in a generation.

We call on every candidate in this election to pledge opposition to funding cuts and to explain to voters how they will respond to the crisis in education.

# Funding

## What we say:

The Government has cut school funding by £2.2 billion a year since 2015.

Between now and 2020, it wants to cut £3 billion more.

Ninety-nine per cent of all schools will suffer funding cuts.

This will mean:

- Fewer teachers
- Larger classes
- Less subject choice
- Cuts in after-school activities
- Fewer teaching assistants
- Nursery schools closing

The very young, the poor and those with special needs and disabilities will be worst affected.

## What you can do:

- Find out how much schools in your community will lose at [schoolcuts.org.uk](http://schoolcuts.org.uk)
- Ask every candidate standing for election to pledge to oppose school cuts.
- Ask them to send a message of support to the school cuts campaign.

# Poverty

## What we say:

We are the sixth largest economy in the world yet our levels of child poverty are shocking.

More than four million children grow up in poverty - 30 per cent of all children.

With cuts and austerity, this number is rising.

Poor children do not learn as well as better-off children. Hunger affects concentration. Parents in poverty do not easily find the money for trips, books and other essentials.

## What you can do:

- Find out if your candidate supported the benefit cuts which affected so many families and, if they did, ask them why.
- Ask if they have talked to teachers and heads about what they can do to stop families falling into poverty.

# Increasing selection

## What we say:

The Government wants to expand grammar schools and selective education.

Research - by OECD, an organisation the Government supports - says the highest-performing systems in the world are non-selective.

Selection for the few is rejection for the many.

## **What you can do:**

- Ask your candidate to oppose increasing selection and opening new grammar schools or streams.
- If they are in favour, ask them for evidence to support their policy.

# Learning

## What we say:

Most students like school and teachers want to teach. But unnecessary and high-stakes testing and exams get in the way of education.

The curriculum has narrowed. The arts, technical and vocational education find it harder to keep their place.

Primary and secondary schools are teaching to the test. Problems of stress and mental health are rising - for students and teachers.

There are better alternatives. Powerful voices are calling for a new approach, that learns from other countries, and addresses the future not the past.

## What you can do:

- Ask your candidates to support More than a Score, a coalition of parents, teachers and educators that campaigns against SATs and for a different primary assessment system.
- Ask your candidates to support Bacc to the Future, an alliance of more than 200 organisations that seeks a place for arts subjects in the secondary curriculum.

During this election, and after it, the NUT will work with those who share the ideas set out in this manifesto, to defend education and protect the future of our children. All of our children.

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**#VoteForEducation**