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National Foundation for
Educational Research

General Election 2024 NFER Manifesto Appeals





Teachers

A shortage of teachers will inevitably lead to worsening educational outcomes for young people. School leaders are increasingly resorting to the use of non-specialist teachers to plug gaps, which will ultimately affect pupil attainment. The system needs a new long-term strategy designed to make teaching more attractive in financial and non-financial terms, to address a worsening recruitment and retention crisis.

*A new
long-term
strategy
to fix the
workforce
crisis*

*Essential
skills for
tomorrow's
workforce*

New technologies, coupled with major demographic and environmental changes, are predicted to transform employment over the coming decades. Skills such as creativity, critical thinking, team work, problem solving and resilience are likely to become increasingly important for jobs across the economy.

Without action to help young people and workers develop the right skills that will be needed in future, there may be widespread under-employment and enduring social and economic problems.

Furthermore, the Government should extend the 16-19 bursary fund to apprentices to help subsidise travel costs for apprentices from disadvantaged backgrounds. It should also review the current minimum apprenticeship wage.

Skills

Funding

Sufficient cash to help children and young people fulfil their potential

School spending per pupil in England fell by 9% in real terms between 2009–10 and 2019–20. Sufficient resource and funding for schools is vital to ensure that every child and young person is able to fulfil their potential. The government must ensure that schools and colleges are ably supported through the cost of living crisis, and that school and college buildings are a safe and productive place for all pupils to learn.

Disadvantage

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the disadvantage attainment gap to widen. Additionally, the government's 'levelling-up' agenda has resulted in deprived schools receiving the smallest average increases in funding. The government must focus efforts on ensuring that funding and resources reach those that need it most.

Ensure that no one is left behind





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Evidence for excellence in education

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