

London Manifestos 2016 – Children and Education Round Up

Following the Government's lead on creating greater autonomy in the schools sector, Goldsmith said he would work with community organisations to create a new chain of free schools and free boarding schools dedicated to helping vulnerable young people. He has also shown determination to both twin urban primary schools with rural farms and deliver at least 100 'pocket farms' to London primary schools, expanding London children's horizons. The Liberal Democrats similarly want urban schools to maintain green space, with a promise to protect school playing fields.

Khan's vision for school cooperation is focused closer to home, with a commitment to break down barriers between London boroughs and co-ordinate school place planning.

Unlike the Conservatives and Labour, the Liberal Democrat manifesto for London has a strong focus on childcare in the capital with an expressed intention to extend wrap-around childcare for parents working long hours and a citywide childcare loan scheme for London's single parents.

Upskilling London's workforce was certainly a theme of the main parties' manifestos. Labour promised to both map the skills gap and create a Skills for Londoners taskforce working in concert with the London Enterprise Panel and the Liberal Democrats pledged to establish both a new Business Board and a London-wide careers service to work with schools and training providers. The Conservatives did not pledge a new skills body, but spoke about targeting the adult skills budget at certain sectors such as engineering and the digital economy.

In terms of the curriculum, the Green Party promised to make sure sex and relationships education is included in PSHE classes in all London's schools. No other party commented specifically on the issue, or school curriculum.

Nothing has been said specifically on higher education reform by the parties which is unsurprising given the nationwide nature of the issue.



Goldsmith has committed to delivering on the Government initiative of **thirty hours of free childcare** and will ensure the policy adequately reflects the cost of childcare in London. (p16)

More affordable sites for **establishing nurseries and crèches** will be established through collaborative working. (p16)

Goldsmith will work with local boroughs and schools to find sites for new schools to be built. (p15)
The party will work with community organisations to create a new chain of free schools and free boarding schools, dedicated to helping **vulnerable young people** learn and progress. Local football clubs will also be looked to sponsor such schools as an academy. (p80)

Where possible the party will look to create a **boarding element for such community free schools** so that children suffering abuse or neglect at home have a safe, specialist environment in which to learn. (p80)

The party will deliver at least **100 'Pocket Farms'** for London primary schools, with grants of up to £5,000 provided to schools, paid for by under-spend identified in the London Food Board programme. (p23)

It will pilot a programme **twinning urban primary schools with rural farms**. (p23)

It will ensure all London schools meet the nutritional standards of the Government's **School Food Plan** by 2020. (p23)

It will back the **expansion of breakfast and holiday clubs** to ensure children on Free School Meals do not go hungry when they are out of school. (p23)

It will work with charities like School Food Matters to ensure schools purchase **healthy and sustainable food**. (p23)

Higher and further education

Goldsmith will use the **adult skills budget** to improve funding for engineering, construction, sciences, creative media and arts, financial services and the digital economy. (p15)

A **Clean Tech hub** will be established. (p15)



The party will break down the boundaries between boroughs and coordinate **school-place planning**, working with local authorities to prepare properly for long-term population growth. (p49)

A city-wide STEM strategy will be developed and a **London STEM Commission** established to link school with science jobs and careers. (p49)

Labour will work with councils to challenge **coasting or poor-performing schools** of all types and support those schools that need it. (p50)

Higher and further education

The party will ensure more girls are supported to **develop tech skills**. (p15)

Labour will create a **Skills for Londoners** taskforce working in concert with the London Enterprise Panel and consisting of business leaders and other employers alongside the Mayor, London councils and representatives of HE, FE and schools. (p48)

The party will **map the skills gap**, and commission programmes to create a pipelines of skilled London workers. (p48)

A city-wide, strategic approach to skills will be developed **identifying gaps in provision** and ensuring that currently disparate programmes and funding streams work in concert. (p48)

Labour will work with schools to **improve careers advice** and to promote opportunities for children to get an early start in career skills. Advice and programmes will be gender blind and gender equality will be a focus, creating targeted opportunities for girls to excel in STEM skills in particular. (p49)

Thousands of new, **high-quality apprenticeships** will be commissioned using the levy paid by business to government with the levy paid by London's employers ring-fenced to the capital to make sure this benefits young people and businesses in London. (p49)

The party will establish a **construction academy scheme** with the housebuilding industry to close the gap between ambitious housing targets and the need for more skilled construction workers. (p49)

Labour will use the **local area reviews** process to ensure FE provision meets the needs of London's economy and is of high-quality, seeking a devolution deal over further education which recognises the strategic importance of a London-wide approach to FE. (p50)

The party will call for **devolution of further education funding** for 16-19 year olds and adults to create high-performing colleges that meet the needs of London's economy and help reduce youth unemployment. (p51)

The take-up of **adult Learning loans** will be promoted. (p51)

Labour will **oppose the cuts to English for Speakers of Other Languages** (ESOL) classes in London's colleges, and lobby the Government to restore funding. (p51)



The party will protect **school playing fields** from being built over (p83)

On education, the party intent to **take over responsibility from central government for London's school places and quality**. (p65)

The party want to work with councils to get **co-ordinate the pattern of school places** and use the London Plan process to ensure that more schools are delivered as part of the **redevelopment and regeneration schemes**. (p65)

The party wish to intend a **London Schools Commissioner** to lead improvements. (p65)

On childcare, the party intend to **extend wrap-around childcare** for parents working long-hours, funded via a new **London Children's Fund** from a tourist levy for £2 per night on luxury hotel rooms. (p66)

The Liberal Democrats wish to ensure that GLA land provided for school buildings comes with **nursery provision** where possible. (p66)

The party will urge London councils to **extend business rate relief to childcare providers**. (p66)

The party wish to **audit current school provision** of breakfast and after school clubs. (p66)

The party intend for the London Enterprise Panel to focus on **maternal unemployment** and to prioritise projects that provide childcare or improve maternal employment when allocating London funding from the European Union. (p66)

A citywide **childcare loan scheme** will be promoted by the party for London's single parents. (p66)

The party want to set up an **independent taskforce** to take action to reduce child poverty as well as work with boroughs to **halve the number of children living in overcrowded housing** by 2020. An **annual report** will also be published by the party reporting the progress on improving life chances of young Londoners. (p68)

The Liberal Democratic wish to encourage and work with boroughs to keep their own **youth facilities**. (p68)

On child travel, the party want to **protect current fare concessions** for children and students. (p68)

The party support the extension of the **right to vote** in all future London elections to 16 years old. (p68)

The party wants to make London a **healthier place in which to grow up**, focusing on improved air quality, health inequalities and better mental health services for young people. (p68)

The party will support the growth of credit unions and particularly **encourage children's savings** accounts with a £5 starter contribution for secondary school pupils. (p58)

Higher and further education

The party will work with central government to take **responsibility for further and adult education** to provide strategic oversight of investment in skills programmes in London. (p52)

It will set up a **one-stop-shop brokerage service** between employers in London and apprenticeship candidates to match individual skills and interests with employer requirements. (p52)

It will establish a **London-wide careers service** to work with schools and other education and training providers. (p52)

It will appoint a **new Business Board** to align skills development with the needs of business. (p52)

It will insist **each borough develops a training plan** so local needs are identified and make sure local libraries get involved in providing such training. (p52)

It will involve the voluntary sector to **improve the employability and skills** of the most excluded and economically inactive Londoners. (p52)



They would work to make sure **sex and relationship education** is included in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) classes in all London's schools, and support efforts by Greens nationally to make it a statutory requirement. (p15)

The party would introduce **anonymised CVs** in all GLA Group recruitment and work with employers to use them more widely. (p18)

They would create at least 150,000 high-quality **apprenticeships** aimed at young people under 25, all paying at least the London Living Wage and with half a day's off-the-job learning per week. (p18)

Would lobby the Government **strategic education priorities** to be devolved to the GLA, in co-operation with local authorities in London, and for control of the Mayor's academy schools to be returned to local boroughs. (p18)

The party would also create a **Deputy Mayor for education** and assign staff in City Hall to work with schools and colleges to improve the co-ordination of education in the capital. (p18)

Higher and further education

The party would continue to **oppose tuition fees** for further and higher education and the cuts to the Education Maintenance Allowance and university grants. (p18)