

Education Policy Working Group Remit

The FPC is commissioning a working group to update party policy and produce proposals for Education in England. The group is particularly directed to identify policies which could be strong campaigning issues within education, reinforcing our overall liberal vision of creating opportunity for everyone regardless of background. The group is also expected to consider and address Liberal Democrat principles on diversity and equalities in developing their proposals. The group should take into account existing policy as set out in policy papers 119, *Protecting Public Services and Making Them Work for You* (2014), 103 *Learning for Life* (2013), *A New Liberal Democrat Approach Race Equality* (2013), and 89, *Equity and Excellence* (2009).

In the course of its work the group should consider the following topics, giving priority to those where existing policy most requires development or updating:

- The overall purposes of education, and its widest aims in terms of developing personal qualities like character and creativity, and preparing people to participate as citizens in a democratic society
- Early Years Education
- Funding, including Fair Funding formula implications and issues
- Structures, academisation, governors, local accountability, and admissions, seeking to combine the maximum school autonomy and scope to innovate with democratic accountability to parents and communities and the need to ensure coherent school provision for all children
- Standards, inspection, regional variation, powers of intervention, failing schools
- Teaching quality, the crisis in recruitment and retention, professional development
- Curriculum and examinations, parity of esteem of vocational qualifications, and a 'curriculum for life' to equip people with practical life skills (eg. how to open a bank account)
- Closing the 'attainment gap', the pupil premium and other policies to help underachieving groups
- Linking school and the world of work, work experience, careers guidance
- Further Education 14-19
- Non-formal Education

Note: policies on Higher Education and Faith Schools will be developed and presented to party conference through other processes

The group will take evidence and consult widely from both within and outside the party. This evidence should inform the group's proposals, which will be presented alongside an analysis of costs and an Equalities Impact Assessment. A policy paper of no longer than 10,000 words should be produced for debate at Autumn Conference 2017. Prior to that a consultative session should be held at Spring Conference 2017, and a draft policy paper should be presented to the Federal Policy Committee by June 2017.