

- *Free nutritious lunches*, with local and GM-free ingredients, and children involved in growing, preparing and cooking food where possible. The number of infants eating school lunches since the current free meals were introduced has increased from just 300,000 to 1,640,530 now. The extension will cost an additional £2 billion a year.
- Ensuring that all schools that serve particular *vulnerable communities*, for example the Jewish, Muslim or Sikh communities, are adequately protected from *sectarian attacks*.
- An end to the trend whereby parents have to buy as *extras* equipment needed at school or for participation on expensive school trips.

#### Caroline Lucas on personal, social, health and economic education

In Parliament, Green MP Caroline Lucas led on making sure that all young people get taught high-quality PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education). She introduced a Bill in Parliament to require all schools to teach the subject and for teachers to get proper training and support. Good PSHE is key to ending violence against women and girls and also has significant knock-on benefits for both academic attainment and future employability. Statutory PSHE is supported by the National Union of Teachers, Mumsnet, Stonewall, Girlguiding, Everyday Sexism and the Royal College of Nursing, among others.

## FURTHER EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING

We will:

- Oppose the *privatisation* of further education and return further education colleges to the democratic control of local government.
- Reverse the trend whereby 45% of *apprenticeships*, that is, jobs with structured training, are now taken by people over 25. We would reinstate the government's duty to provide an apprenticeship to all qualified young people aged 16–19 who do not have one and want one, but extend it to age 25, and increase funding for apprenticeships by 30%.
- Restore the *Education Maintenance Allowance* for 16 and 17 year olds.
- Provide the further education sector with *£1.5 billion a year extra funding*.
- Connect universities with local schools and colleges through nationwide *Widening Participation* programmes.
- Encourage local authorities to use some of the additional money we propose to give to them to restore a full range of *local adult education* programmes.
- End the anomaly whereby schools and academies can *reclaim VAT* on goods and services whereas sixth form colleges and further education colleges cannot, by allowing the latter to claim, costing around £170 million a year.
- Prioritise training in the *skills needed to build a low-carbon economy*.

#### Greens in power carry out our policies

Education in Brighton & Hove was for long a major concern to parents in the city, but since the Greens came to office results have improved. The 2013 GCSE results were the best ever, though they fell in 2014 after tougher marking was introduced across the country. 'A' level results continued to improve in 2014. And 80% of sixth forms and colleges are good or outstanding as judged by Ofsted.