

a new 'Master Teacher' status. Teachers will also be expected to update their knowledge and skills as a condition of remaining in the profession, and we will support plans for a new College of Teaching. These measures will help us close the attainment gap between disadvantaged children and their peers, and work towards all children reading well by age 11. We have supported the successful 'Teach First' since its inception and will continue to do so.

A new School Leadership Institute will support headteachers and improve school leadership. It will accredit gold-standard headship qualifications, support leadership training and development, and identify and develop the school leaders of the future.

The Government has attempted to oversee thousands of schools from the centre. This approach is not working. Underperformance is going unchallenged and parents do not have enough of a voice. Labour will introduce new Directors of School Standards at a local level to monitor performance, intervene in underperforming schools and support them to improve.

Where a majority of local parents have concerns about underperformance, or a dip in standards, they will be able to call in their local Director of School Standards to hold a school to account.

Labour will promote innovation in schools. We will give all schools freedoms currently only granted to some. Directors of School Standards will be responsible for commissioning new schools where there is a shortage of school places, encouraging innovative bids from established providers, good local authorities, parents, teachers and entrepreneurs. They will also encourage local schools to work together to improve the quality of education.

We will end the wasteful and poorly performing Free Schools programme, and switch resources to where they are needed, allowing us to cap class sizes for five, six and seven-year-olds at 30 pupils or under.

Private schools currently benefit from generous state subsidies, including business rates relief worth hundreds of millions of pounds. We believe they should do more to contribute to raising standards in state education to justify receiving this subsidy. As a condition for continued business rate relief, private