



Supporting Success in Education

We will provide an additional year of schooling to our youngest children, with qualified educational staff providing classes for 3-4 year olds.

We will give our teachers and classroom assistants the time to teach so that they can focus on ensuring the development of core skills in schools. By working with teaching unions and staff, we will reduce red tape and bureaucracy so that head-teachers can lead their schools and more time is spent teaching children, rather than doing paperwork.

We will improve the quality of teacher in-service training and ensure teachers in all parts of Wales have access to best practice.

We will transfer powers over teachers' pay and conditions to the National Assembly for Wales, as recommended by the Silk Commission.

No child left behind

We will set the learning outcomes to be achieved by schools, ensuring the best possible English, Welsh and Mathematics GCSE results, but will allow schools themselves to determine how to achieve those outcomes. Those schools which achieve the required standards will be allowed to develop as they see fit, but less successful schools will get additional support to ensure that no child is left behind.

Successful schools will have fewer school inspections but we will introduce 'on the spot' inspections for those which are not reaching their potential.

A single consistent framework will be introduced for assessing

children's progress throughout their school career so every child can reach their full potential.

We will create an independent examination regulator to restore faith in the Welsh examination system.

To better protect our most vulnerable children, we will review the effectiveness of child protection provision to make sure that schools and social services co-operate efficiently.

Plaid Cymru would remove the reasonable punishment defence, giving children equal protection under the law and preventing smacking.

All children and young people should receive a comprehensive programme of healthy relationships education. Values of equality, tolerance and respect should be embedded in everything schools do to tackle sexist, racist, homophobic and other discriminatory bullying.