



Our Pledges for Your CHILD'S EDUCATION

Our pledges for your child's education:

Reversing the Labour Direct Rule Education Cuts - reducing bureaucracy and investing in our schools.

A guaranteed free pre-school place - to give your child's education the best start.

Making Literacy & Numeracy the priority in your child's Primary School - to make the most of your child's potential.

A new, fairer method of Academic Selection - to make the most of your child's potential.

A choice of academic and vocational routes in post-primary education - to maximise your child's opportunities.

Maintaining Northern Ireland's excellent record of high academic and vocational standards - giving your child the best employment opportunities.



Ulster Unionists 





Your Child's Education: Ulster Unionist Pledges...

Reversing Labour's Direct Rule Education Cuts, Reducing Bureaucracy & Investing in Schools:

Ulster Unionists believe in investing in education, to give opportunities to all our children. The Direct Rule Labour Ministers talk about education – but have delivered brutal cuts damaging our schools and our children's future. Ulster Unionists believe that taxpayers' money should be spent on our schools – not on bureaucracy. Each year Northern Ireland's 5 education and library boards spend more than £20 million on administration. Ulster Unionists advocate replacing the 5 education boards with 1 education authority reducing the cost and extent of bureaucracy, and freeing up money for the classroom.

A guaranteed free pre-school place - to give your child's education the best start:

Pre-school education offers the best start for a child's education, helping children's ability to learn and concentrate in primary school. All parents – not just some – should have the choice of pre-school education for their children. The Ulster Unionist Party is committed to providing a free place for every child in Northern Ireland for the year before they start school.

Making Literacy & Numeracy the priority in your child's Primary School - so that no child is left behind:

Parents know that reading, writing and counting are the most important subjects for their children's education. Ulster Unionists believe that literacy and numeracy should be the cornerstone of your child's primary school education. The curriculum should be judged against its ability to raise literacy and numeracy standards. Recent tests in English and Mathematics carried out among eight year olds showed that there is still much room for improvement, particularly among boys. Regular testing will enable parents to see how well their child is progressing and allow schools to provide additional support to children who need it.

A new fairer, method of academic selection - to make the most of your child's potential:

Northern Ireland schools have outperformed the rest of the UK in terms of GCSE and A Level results ever since the rest of the United Kingdom moved to the failed comprehensive system. That is why Ulster Unionists support the overwhelming majority of parents who want to keep academic selection – as confirmed by the Department of Education's Household Survey. However, like parents, Ulster Unionists recognise that the 11 plus has many weaknesses. That is why Ulster Unionists would replace the 11 plus with Pupil Profiles that would provide a record of your child's work and test performance (including results from standardised tests). This gives post-primary schools and parents an accurate reflection of a child's abilities.

A choice of academic and vocational routes in post-primary education - to maximise your child's employment opportunities:

Ulster Unionists want every post-primary school to be a high-quality school offering a solid grounding in maths, English, Science and Information Technology. Young people and their parents tell us they want a curriculum that is relevant and will give them the skills that will help them throughout their career. Parents and young people must be able to choose an educational route that makes the most of their abilities and aptitudes. Both academic and vocational qualifications are essential to our economy and must be given equal in status. Post-primary schools and Colleges of Further Education must have the freedom and resources to offer the best facilities for learning.

Maintaining Northern Ireland's excellent record of high educational standards: giving all our children the best opportunities:

Most of Northern Ireland's schools produce some of the best results at all levels in the UK. We are proud of their achievements and we must build on that record so that no young person will leave school without qualifications. Ulster Unionists believe that targeted initiatives and resources are needed to improve standards. We believe that failing schools must be tackled so that all children receive an education that gives them the opportunities they deserve.



Your Child's Education: Ulster Unionist Pledges...

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Reducing Bureaucracy and Investing in our Schools**

**A Guaranteed Free Pre-School Place:
To give your child's education the best start**

**Making Literacy and Numeracy the priority in your child's primary school:
So that no child is left behind**

**A new, fairer method of academic selection:
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