



# Pearson

## Policy Tracker – Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in May 2017



### Main talking points

A month overshadowed by the horrific event in Manchester. Elsewhere, it's been a big month for reports and election activities with a full listing below.

### Key headlines from the month

- Schools breakfasts. Education Datalab and Schools Week challenge the funding
- Primary school places. Parents get to hear if they have their preferred choice for September
- SATs. This year's programme successfully completed
- Key Stage Assessment. Labour promises a commission to review the whole thing
- EBacc. Conservative Manifesto proposes 75% participation by 2022
- Mental health. First prof development centre for teachers opens
- Teachers (1.) NFER report that teachers of core EBacc subjects often have highest leaving rate
- Teachers (2.) Tory manifesto proposes scrapping student loan repayments for practicing teachers
- Teachers (3.) Labour promises ending the pay cap and reducing workloads
- Governors. Schools to be able to remove inappropriate ones
- Comprehensive Future. Launches a campaign against any further expansion of grammar schools
- Schools. Conservative Manifesto confirms continuing system reforms
- Moving chairs. Russell Hobby confirmed as next Chief Exec of Teach First
- EMAs. Labour pledges to bring back
- 16-18 NETs. Numbers up in latest stats
- T-levels. Major Parties come out in support in their Manifestos
- ESF funding. Learning and Work Institute launches a campaign to save
- AoC. Confirms Dr Alison Birkinshaw as its next President
- Institutes of Technology. Conservative Manifesto comes out in support
- FE/HE funding. Conservatives propose a major review in their Manifesto
- Tuition fees. Labour pledges to scrap along with restoring maintenance grants
- Guardian 2018 uni rankings. Oxbridge and Russell Groups top the annual listing
- Foreign students. Conservatives to keep in migrant totals, Labour/Lib-Dem to take out

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## Reports/Publications of the month (in order of publication)

- **Self-employment and the gig economy.** The Work and Pensions Committee rushes out the results of its inquiry calling on an incoming government to offer better rights and support for such workers
- **Recruitment and retention of teachers.** The government issues its response to the Education Committee's earlier Inquiry recognizing the importance of the issue but offering little new
- **Primary assessment.** The Education Committee offers its initial thoughts, recommending some changes at KS2 and a reduction in high-stakes assessment to help create a better balance
- **Children and young people's mental health.** In another report rushed out before Parliament was dissolved, the Education and Health Committees worry about the effect of cuts on support services
- **AELP Manifesto.** The Association of Employment and Learning Providers lists ten priorities largely around funding and support for apprenticeships including a target of 4m quality starts
- **Doorstep Manifesto.** The Head teachers' Roundtable outline two key questions, one on funding and one on teacher supply, to ask prospective candidates on the doorstep
- **ASCL Manifesto.** The Association of School and College Leaders highlights five recommendations in its Election 2017 Manifesto around funding, teacher recruitment and policy stability
- **GE 2017 Policy Priorities.** The Russell Group of Universities lists five priorities including a secure Brexit, a new visa system for staff and students, investment for science and research
- **NAHT Manifesto.** Manifesto. The National Association of Head teachers highlights five priorities covering funding, teacher recruitment, accountability and the curriculum
- **SFCA Manifesto.** The Sixth Form Colleges' Association makes four recommendations with a £200 per student funding uplift at the top of their list
- **Manifesto 2017.** The Association of Colleges (AoC) lists six recommendations covering skills, apprenticeship stability, fair funding, strong colleges, learning accounts, and access
- **OECD Skills Outlook 2017.** The OECD reports on how different member countries are equipping workers with the right sets of core and specialist skills to be able to participate in global value chains
- **Devolving Skills.** The Collab Group reports on some principles needed to make devolved skills systems operate effectively and aligned to the needs of users
- **A loaded dice.** Education Datalab reports on its research work into the way the 11-plus is working in one Authority, namely Kent, and concludes that its arbitrary nature resembles a loaded dice
- **For the many.** Labour launches its Manifesto promising among other things to reverse cuts in school funding, scrap university tuition fees and restore Education Maintenance Allowances
- **Change Britain's Future.** The Lib-Dems launch their Manifesto promising other things to invest more in education, establish an Educational Standards Authority and support lifelong learning
- **Forward Together.** The Conservatives launch their Manifesto pledging among other things to support selective schools, T- levels and the retention of overseas students in net migration targets
- **Testing the Water.** LKMco reports on its initial commissioned research into views on the future of assessment highlighting many of the issues around accountability, teacher role and pupil pressures

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- **Assessing the role of grammar schools in promoting social mobility.** UCL's Institute of Education publishes a new research Paper highlighting the negative impact on those who don't get in
- **Success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.** Head teacher and former policy adviser Peter Hyman explains the importance of learning through head, heart and hand in an essay series for the think tank IPPR
- **State of Education 2017.** The Key publishes its annual sweeping survey of the current issues and challenges facing schools with funding, teacher retention and curriculum balance all prominent
- **Tech transitions.** The think tank IPPR examines UTCs and Studio Schools, finding them at a difficult evolutionary stage calling on UTCs to become 16+ T-level providers and studio schools to join MATs

## Speeches of the month

- Deliberately left blank during the general election period

## Quotes of the month

- "You can have all the evidence in the world but head teachers have told me grammar schools are good for disadvantaged pupils" – the PM defends the inclusion of grammars in her Party's Manifesto
- "A programme that is radical and responsible" – Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn launches his Party's Manifesto
- "Neither addresses the long-term challenges we face" – the Institute for Fiscal Studies summarizes the two main Party Manifestos
- "As is typical in the English education system, it has been haphazard, underfunded and led by institutions" – the Deputy Chief Exec of the AoC reflects on the area review process
- "Schools are safe places and part of their safeness derives from the clearly enforced routines" – ASCL gen-sec Geoff Barton on the safe havens schools can provide in the wake of the recent terror atrocity
- "Other grades don't correspond exactly to the old grades but they do roughly" – the Chair of the Independent Schools Council explains the new grading scale for GCSEs
- "As in previous years, we expect to see students letting off steam on social media" – Ofqual issues a spoiler alert as the exam season gets under way
- "There are terms these children have to learn in English language and grammar which are completely new to me, aged 73" – the author Michael Morpurgo reflects on this year's SATs

## Word or phrase of the month

- Rosemary. With claims that the aroma from the oil can improve memory, sales jump 180+% during the exam season

## Steve Besley

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