

At the end of July, we wrote to the four candidates for leadership of the Labour Party inviting their views on the Seven Points prepared by the Reclaiming Education Alliance for the General Election. We consider these points essential for “A Better Future for Our Schools”. The deadline for responses was 21<sup>st</sup> August. These are the (unedited) responses that we received.

	Reclaiming Education 7 points	Andy Burnham	Yvette Cooper	Jeremy Corbyn	Liz Kendall
1	The National Curriculum should be what it says – a curriculum for all children in all English schools. As originally promised, it should be a curriculum to which all children are <b>entitled</b> , broadly based, balanced and designed to promote children’s emotional, as well as intellectual, development.	See statement below	No response	Agree	No response
2	No school should be allowed to choose its pupils. Admission to schools should be fairly administered according to well understood rules drawn up by a locally elected education service. Selection tests must end. No child should be branded a failure at 11.				
3	Inclusion and equal opportunities need to be at the heart of education provision and discrimination and segregation tackled in all their forms. The needs of every child, including those with SEN and disabilities, should be fully met.				
4	All schools should be treated equally and funded according to a common formula which responds to pupils’ needs.				
5	All schools within the same area should work together, rather than compete against each other. A locally elected education service should guide, support and monitor schools as well as take decisions on school places.				
6	The inspection system is perceived by schools as hostile and threatening. It should be replaced by one which is supportive, as well as rigorous. Standards should be agreed through a national consultation process and inspectors should be trained to help schools improve where necessary.				
7	All those whom we employ to educate our children should have qualified professional status. Continuing professional development should be an entitlement and requirement for all staff. Unqualified staff should be given appropriate training to become qualified.				

Harriet, from Andy Burnham’s team, undertook to get us a response by the deadline but in the end provided this:

*“I believe in comprehensive education. I will bring forward a new vision to reinvigorate it for the 21st century, based on true parity between academic and technical education. I will restore a local role in overseeing schools, rejecting the growing market of free schools and academies.*

*The best way to raise standards in schools is to give all young people hope that there is something waiting for them after school. For decades, Westminster has discriminated against those wanting a technical education. I want young people who aspire to apprenticeships to have the same clarity, ambition and sense of purpose as those who aspire to go to university. So I will propose a national UCAS-style system for apprenticeships and extend access to student finance to help people to move to take up an apprenticeship. I will propose a reformed funding model for post- 18 education, looking at a graduate tax to replace tuition fees for university and extend support for apprenticeships. No young person should have to start their career weighed down by a millstone of debt. Labour will lift it off them.”*

**The response also said:** *“You [i.e. Reclaiming Education] outlined a lot of other important areas, but many are quite detailed, and will be subject to the policy review that will take place leading up to the 2020 election. Andy’s Leadership campaign has been about laying out his biggest policy ideas for the future of the Party and the country and giving a sense of direction and vision, rather than outlining his views on every detailed issue. If elected as Leader, Andy wants to give much bigger voice to the grassroots in developing Labour policy, so we would urge you to get involved and inform a strong, evidence-based education policy agenda for the next election.”*