

Schools need proper funding

Conference notes:

1. The Education Policy Institute report *Closing the Gap? Trends in Educational Attainment and Disadvantage* published on 3 August shows that the most disadvantaged pupils in England have fallen further behind their peers.
2. Reports in *TES* on 10 August that DfE has confirmed a 1% pay rise for teachers and on 16 August that teachers will suffer because of benefit changes.
3. The Government wants to cut £8.9bn in school funding by 2022; schools are returning after the summer break to teacher vacancies, larger class sizes and cuts to support services due to funding cuts.
4. The level of concern about the impact of Tory cuts on schools expressed by voters.

Conference believes

1. The current level of under-funding is unsustainable; our children are suffering and increased funding is desperately needed.
2. Unless investment and correct interventions are in place the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers will continue.
3. The government has wasted millions on its inefficient free schools programme.
4. School funding cuts are part of the failed Tory austerity programme; we need investment to secure our economic future and support young people to achieve their full potential.

Conference calls on all sections of the Labour Party to commit to:

1. campaign to bring all schools back into local authority control;
2. ensure schools are properly funded, have sufficient numbers of qualified teachers with lower class sizes and improved school buildings which meet the highest possible fire safety standards. Teachers and support staff should be properly rewarded and valued to address recruitment and retention problems at a time of increasing pupil numbers.