

General Election 2019: Conservative party manifesto science and education policies

Please note that we have summarised the party's main manifesto only. You can find the manifesto in full [here](#).

Climate and energy

Conservative:

- Deliver on the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and ask partner countries to match this target.
- Not support fracking unless the “science shows categorically that it can be done safely.”
- An oil and gas sector deal for Scotland.
- Increase offshore wind capacity and aim for offshore wind industry to reach 40GW by 2030.
- Invest £800 million to build the first fully deployed carbon capture storage cluster by the mid 2020s.
- Invest £500 million to help energy-intensive industries move to low carbon techniques.
- Support gas for hydrogen production and nuclear energy, including fusion, as important parts of the energy system, alongside increasing the Government's commitment to renewables.

Environment and ecology

Conservative:

- Establish a new independent office for environmental protection and introduce legal targets for things like air quality.
- Prioritise the environment in the next Budget by investing in the infrastructure science and research that would deliver economic growth.
- Invest in nature through a new £640 million “Nature for Climate” fund.
- Create new national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty and make the coast to coast path across the most beautiful areas of the North a national trail.
- Protect and enhance the green belt and prioritise brownfield development.
- Bring the ivory ban into force and extend it to cover other ivory-bearing species, and ban imports from trophy hunting of endangered animals.
- Ban keeping primates as pets.
- Set up new international partnerships to tackle deforestation.

Agriculture and fisheries

Conservative:

- Lobby for farmers to farm “in a way that protects and enhances the natural environment whilst safeguarding high standards of animal welfare.”
- Move to a system based on ‘public money for public goods’ for farmers once Brexit has been done, in order to “free farmers from the bureaucratic common agricultural policy.”
- Leave the Commons Fisheries Policy upon leaving the EU.
- Establish a “legal commitment” to fish sustainably and a legal requirement for a plan to achieve the “maximum sustainable yield for each stock.”
- Introduce “tougher” sentences for animal cruelty.
- Bring in new laws on animal sentience.
- End “excessively long” journeys for slaughter and fattening.
- Oppose any changes to be made to the Hunting Act.

Water and air

Conservative:

- Support clean transport to ensure clean air, as well as setting “strict” new laws on air quality.
- Consult on the earliest date at which the phasing out of the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars can take place.
- Establish a new £500 million “Blue Planet Fund” to help protect oceans from plastic pollution, warming sea temperatures and overfishing.
- Extend the Blue Belt programme to preserve the maritime environment.

Waste

Conservative:

- Introduce a levy to increase the proportion of recyclable plastics in packaging, and well as introducing “extended producer responsibility.”
- Ban the export of plastic waste to non-OECD countries, consulting with industry NGOs and local councils on the date by which this should be achieved.
- Crack down on waste that destroys the natural environment and kills marine life by increasing penalties for fly-tipping, making those on community sentences clean up their parks and streets.
- Introduce a deposit return scheme to incentivise people to recycle plastic and glass.

Health and biomedicine

Conservative:

- Make the UK the “leading hub for life sciences after Brexit.”

(N.B. There are varying definitions of what life science encompass. The outgoing Conservative government usually restricted the definition to cover pharmaceuticals, drug development, clinical diagnostic and related areas of biotechnology)

Forestry

Conservative:

- Build support for creating a Great Northumberland Forest which could reach an additional 75,000 acres of trees a year by the end of the next Parliament, and restoring peatland.

Science and exiting the EU

Conservative:

- Continued collaboration internationally and with the EU on scientific research including the Horizon 2020 scheme.
- Support “international collaboration and exchange” to ensure UK teams can recruit the skills and talent they need from abroad.

Research funding and higher education policy

Conservative:

- Reform the science funding system to “cut time wasted by scientists filling in forms.”
- Increases the science budget to “drive forward the development of technologies of critical importance to the UK.”
- Introduce a student visa to help universities attract talented young people and allow those students to stay on to apply for work here after they graduate.
- Review the interest rates on student loan repayments with a view to reducing the burden of debt on students.
- Explore ways to “tackle the problem of grade inflation” and “low-quality” courses and improve the application and offer system for undergraduate students.
- “Strengthen academic freedom and free speech” in universities and continue to “focus on raising standards.”
- Strengthen universities and colleges’ civic roles by investing in local adult education and require the Office for Students to look at universities’ success in increasing access across all ages.
- Investment in world-class computing and health data systems that can aid in research.
- Unlock long-term capital in pension funds to invest in and commercialise scientific discoveries.

Schools education policy

Conservative:

- Invest an extra £14 billion in funding for schools, including at least £5,000 a year for each secondary school pupil and at least £4,000 for each primary school pupil. This also includes £780 million in new funding to support children with Special Educational Needs next year.
- Raise teachers' starting salaries to £30,000.
- Create a new "National Skills Fund" worth £3 billion over the next Parliament. A proportion of this funding will be reversed for further strategic investment in skills and the party will "consult widely" on the overall design.
- Invest £250 million into a cultural capital programme to support local libraries and regional museums.