

## Election manifestos

### Roy Blatchford

June 2024

*Let's measure the party manifestos against the following ten ambitions*

#### *For children and young people*

1. No Reception class larger than 15 - children need that great start in the early years, an investment which will reap dividends socially and politically.
2. A Year of Speech & Language across the nation's schools - 'long Covid' remains as much a feature in education as it is in health.
3. A true ambition, and accompanying resources, to ensure every child reads at least in line with their actual age by age 11.
4. Every 10 and 11 year-old guaranteed two years of free musical instrument tuition.
5. A radical reshaping of how we examine GCSEs: 25% oral, 25% portfolio; 25% on-line, 25% written paper.
6. High quality BTec provision for all 16-19 year-olds, as a stepping stone into apprenticeships, the workplace and higher education.

#### *For teachers and leaders*

7. One term sabbaticals every seven years for all full-time teachers - the payback in recruitment and retention would be significant.
8. Ofsted in its current form has outlived its usefulness and lost credibility with parents and the profession - its reform must focus on celebrating the joys as well as the challenges of teaching and leadership.

#### *For the system*

9. The funding apartheid which means primary schools in different areas of the country receive £4,500 or £6,500 per child - this must end. Level up! All parents nationally aspire to the best for their children.

10. The DfE is charged with letting schools get on with what they do best, issuing many fewer missives, and celebrating what the nine million children achieve each day in the nation's 24,500 schools.

Roy Blatchford's is the author of [\*The A - Z of Great Classrooms\*](#) published by John Catt.