



June 21, 2024

Dear [\*\*\*\*\*]

I am contacting you as Chair of f40 group, which represents 43 local authorities that receive among the lowest funding for education in England, to urge The \*\*\*\*\* Party to make education a key focus in its General Election campaign.

We are campaigning for reform of mainstream education and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), along with greater investment and the fairer distribution of education funding.

We appreciate that financial pressure on the UK economy remains incredibly challenging and, in this context, investing in public services is very difficult. However, in the case of the education system, we would argue that we cannot afford **not** to invest.

Investing in our education system is not just an investment in schools, but a direct investment in children and young people – our entrepreneurs, doctors, nurses, teachers, and politicians of the future. Education is absolutely paramount to our future long-term economic success.

On this basis, f40 is urging The \*\*\*\*\* Party, along with the other major parties, to pledge its commitment to education, including SEND and fairer education funding, and make it a key priority in your General Election manifesto.

We invite you to commit to:

- Reforming and investing in mainstream education to ensure it meets the needs of all pupils, regardless of where they live, their ability, or their needs. Schools must be sufficiently funded, resourced, equipped, and supported to ensure children and young people reach their potential, with early intervention, inclusion, and accountability prioritised.
- Urgently tackling the crisis in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities through reform and investment to ensure our most vulnerable children and young people can excel. Additional capital funding will enable local authorities to provide specialist provision for those with the greatest need, reducing the reliance on expensive independent provision, which is contributing to the growing deficit SEND budgets (expected to be £3.6bn by March 2025) and spiralling transport costs. We also seek greater regulation of the specialist SEND independent sector.
- Amending the National Funding Formula to ensure the distribution of education funding is fair across England by removing historic proxy factors that lock in funding for some areas, whilst capping others from receiving more. All children should have the same opportunities, regardless of where they live and go to school. We appreciate there will always be some differences in funding due to area living costs and specific school and pupil needs, but the current disparity is far too wide, as illustrated in the [attached graphs](#).

We would be very happy to discuss these issues with you in more detail if you wish, and we look forward to hopefully seeing education as a key priority in your manifesto.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Dale'.

Cllr Alex Dale  
Chair of f40

CC Karen Westcott  
Secretary of f40