



ATL Scotland Education Manifesto

Devolution has significantly changed the dynamics of UK General Elections since 2001. Political parties in Scotland have to take a more nuanced approach to their manifesto commitments. ATL Scotland's education manifesto reflects this scenario and is of itself tailored to reflect the issues that matter to our members within the context of education being a devolved responsibility of the Scottish Parliament.

Recruit and retain a quality workforce

- No further rises in the state retirement age

ATL supports the removal of the compulsory retirement age as this would prevent employers from removing staff without fair process and allow staff to determine when they retire. The state retirement age should not be increased without a comprehensive review of the qualifying periods for entitlement to the state retirement pension, and a better standard of living for pensioners, with pensions increasing in line with salaries rather than inflation. Increasing the state retirement age is not the way to avoid pensioner poverty. It would create a class of people too old to work and too young for a state pension.

Improve equity in education, nationally and internationally

- Policies to end child poverty in the UK by 2020

Low educational achievement is strongly connected with poverty and disadvantage. International research shows that around 86% of a student's attainment is due to their family background. With 4 million children – one in three – currently living in poverty in the UK, one of the highest rates in the developed world, the government's 2010 target to halve child poverty is likely to fall woefully short. Bolder action is needed to end child poverty by 2020, so eradicating inequality and providing all children with the opportunity to succeed. ATL Scotland recognises the contribution of the Scottish Government towards the 2020 target, particularly through its Early Years and Early Intervention Framework.

- Play its part in achieving the education related Millennium Development and Education for All goals

In the 10 years since the international community adopted the six *Education for All goals* and the *Millennium Development Goals* (2000) much has been achieved, but many of the world's poorest countries are not on track to meet their 2015 targets. Future UK governments must commit to providing more and better aid for education; support the creation of a new global education fund; commit to improving education quality and inclusion; and support efforts to close the global literacy gap. ATL Scotland recognises the contribution of the Scottish Government towards meeting the *Millennium Development Goals* through its International Development Policy.