

Comparison of education-related policies

Note: wording has been taken directly from General Election 2020 Manifestos

	Aontú & Social Democrats	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Labour	People Before Profit	Sinn Féin	Green Party
Pupil Teacher Ratio	Not Published	20:1 (by 2025). Reverse current staffing schedule for small schools	26:1 – continue to reduce this	Reduce class sizes	18:1	20:1	Reduce PTR
Capitation	Not Published	Increase capitation levels by €20 million	Increase by 5% each year over next 5 years	Increase capitation	Fund Education exclusively by State, not through Patron bodies	Increase core capitation – ban voluntary contributions.	Reinstate to pre-2010 levels
Deis	Not Published	18:1 PTR €5 Million for ‘Edible Playground’	Review & Extend. More Tailored Supports	Reduce Class sizes & increase capitation to these schools	Additional resources – develop a national childcare service	Full funding for meals. Increase funding by 20% allowing 200 more schools into the scheme	Reduce PTR here first
Building	Not Published	Minor Works on a permanent footing with €30 million core funding annually. Invest a further €25 million. Establish a value for money unit within the Building and Planning unit	€1 billion per annum by 2027 Continue to open new schools		Capital investment		Conduct a review of how schools are planned & designed

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SEN	Not Published	Reform NCSE. 5 year forecast on current and future need for SEN places for each area	New front loading of SNA model. Work with patrons, management & staff to provide special school places	Expand SNA System	Restore supports for all those with SEN	Add another 500 SNAs and 450 resource teachers. Create a panel of 200 Speech & Language therapists for schools	Fund specific resources, esp. SNAs to meet local demand
Patronage	Not Published		400 Multi denominational or nondenominational schools by 2027	Continue to implement the programme of change for patronage	Abolish all requirements for compulsory religious education		Ensure students ethnicity or religion is not a barrier to enrolment
Pay	Not Published	Restoration of Pay Equality for teachers and School secretaries	Continue to invest	End two tier pay system for teachers & secretaries	Support teachers in fight for pay equality	Equal pay for all teachers and improved pay for secretaries	Eliminate pay inequality. Provide permanent contracts for caretakers and secretaries
Free	Not Published	Genuinely Free education system	Introduce free book scheme for all	Make primary education genuinely free of charge	Free Transport, uniforms, meals, educational materials	Free books over a number of budgets. Extend school meals. No uniforms. School transport more subsidised – free for medical card holders	Free public transport for students
Leadership	Not Published	Restoration of Posts			Reverse Croke Park Hours		Provide 1 admin day for teaching principals