

We propose an education system built around **parental choice, institutional independence, and competition between schools**, rather than a single centrally managed public system. The goal is to improve quality, expand diversity in educational approaches, and ensure funding follows students rather than institutions.

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## 1. Move Away from Centralised School Provision

The current system, heavily structured around government-run schools and oversight by bodies such as the Department for Education, concentrates decisions about curriculum, funding, and school management in central authorities.

We propose transitioning toward a **diverse ecosystem of schools**, where:

- Independent, community, and privately run schools can compete with state institutions
- Schools have greater autonomy over teaching methods and organisation
- Parents choose schools based on quality and educational fit

Funding should follow students rather than being automatically allocated to state-run institutions.

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## 2. Introduce Universal Education Vouchers

Public funding for education should be attached to the **student rather than the school**.

Under a voucher model:

- Each child receives a publicly funded education allowance
- Parents can use that funding at any accredited school
- Schools compete to attract students by offering better education

This creates incentives for schools to innovate and improve outcomes.

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## 3. Expand School Autonomy

Schools should have greater freedom to decide:

- Curriculum design
- Teaching methods
- Hiring and compensation of teachers
- School schedules and structures

Excessive centralisation often limits experimentation and responsiveness to local needs. Greater autonomy encourages **diversity in educational models** and better adaptation to students' interests and abilities.

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#### **4. Encourage New School Creation**

Regulations often make it difficult to open new schools. Reform should make it easier for:

- Teachers
- Educational entrepreneurs
- Non-profit organisations
- Community groups

to establish new schools and educational programs.

Increasing the number of providers would expand options for families and encourage continuous improvement across the system.

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#### **5. Support Alternative Education Pathways**

Not all students thrive in the same academic model. The education system should support diverse pathways, including:

- Vocational and technical training
- Apprenticeships
- Online and hybrid learning models
- Specialised academies for science, arts, or trades

Institutions such as University Technical Colleges illustrate how specialised education models can align schooling more closely with labour market needs.

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#### **6. Increase Transparency and Accountability**

Parents should have access to clear information about school performance. Independent evaluation and reporting systems—such as inspections conducted by Ofsted—can provide information about educational quality while allowing schools operational independence.

Transparent outcomes help families make informed decisions and encourage schools to maintain high standards.

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## 7. Target Support Where It Is Needed Most

Public funding should ensure that every child has access to education, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Support mechanisms could include:

- Larger education vouchers for low-income families
- Scholarships and bursaries
- Additional funding for students with special educational needs

This approach protects access to education while maintaining a flexible and competitive system.

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### In summary:

We propose an education system where **funding follows students, parents choose among diverse schools, institutions have greater autonomy, and competition drives quality and innovation**, while public support ensures that every child can access education regardless of income.