

Green Party – Towards 2030 – A decade of change – Read more [here](#)

Social Protection

- We propose to move towards a system of UBI through gradual reform of the tax and welfare system. We will build on existing structures such as child benefit, the State pension and the Department of Social Protection and Employment Affairs working-age payments. Specific measures to progress the principles of the UBI include the following.
- Introducing a trial study of UBI, similar to those carried out in Finland and Canada. › Preventing child benefit from becoming eroded by inflation.
- Merging the contributory and non-contributory State pensions into a universal pension as recommended by Social Justice Ireland.
- Introduce a refundable tax credit to supplement the income of part time workers.
- Implement the recommendations of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection's report on the position of lone parents in Ireland.
- Restore the age limit for the One Parent Family Payment from 7 years of age to 18 years inclusive or until a child has left second level education.
- Make the Maintenance Recovery Unit in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection responsible for the collection of all maintenance payments needed for the processing of social welfare payments.
- Extend paternity leave and increase flexibility, including by incorporating the circumstances of premature babies and providing additional financial support, where necessary, for the families of premature babies

Childcare

- Bring Ireland into line with the EU average for childcare payments through an integrated scheme of direct subsidies to families and supported caps on costs through local authority provided childcare.
- Ensure that all children with disabilities or who have other additional needs get support to access early years support services.
- Establish a comprehensive framework for the early education profession including qualifications, professional development and remuneration ensuring that childcare workers are incentivised to stay in the sector after graduation.
- Require local authorities to conduct a review and support service for childcare buildings to ensure that all premises have the correct planning status, the appropriate space and services for childcare and that they meet all requirements for fire safety and air quality

Health

- Setting planning restrictions on outlets selling high calorie 'junk-food' and beverages within or adjacent to schools and a ban on their sale in schools and other public buildings frequently used by children.

- Review and amend the Mental Health Act, 2001, which currently does not grant young people, aged 16-17 years old, the right to consent to treatment for their mental health. For many years, people aged 16-17 years old have had the right to consent to treatment for their physical health, but not their mental health. This situation is seriously out of compliance with international human rights standards.
- Introducing legislation to mandate that vending machines in schools can only supply healthy snacks.
- To increase the availability of support and medical services e.g. hormone replacement therapy, gender confirmation surgery, psychological services, and funding for support groups
- Offer all forms of contraception and related GP visits free of charge. This would ensure that costs are not a barrier to family planning decisions.
- Support informed consent during maternal care and develop publicly funded primary health care services to support home birth for those who choose this option.
- Include a free post-natal dental and physiotherapy check-up for mothers under the Maternity and Infant Care Scheme, in keeping with the holistic approach to health.
- Our strategy for keeping children in sport will be centred on low-stakes participation. We will encourage National Governing Bodies to limit scorekeeping and record taking in underage sport. This will promote continued participation into adolescence and adulthood, leading to improved elite performance outcomes.
- Supporting the International Obesity Task Force's 'Sydney Principles' as a basis to restrict commercial marketing of foods to children.
- Improving the long-term immunity and health of the population of Ireland by increasing support, protection and promotion of breastfeeding in maternity, paediatric and community health care settings.
- Improving the quality and nutrition of food served in other public-sector areas such as schools, hospitals, government buildings, local authority premises, etc., and pushing for local food procurement policies for the public sector

Education

- Reducing pupil-to-teacher ratios at first and second level with a particular focus on DEIS schools.
- Addressing teacher shortages for subject specific and substitute teachers.
- Reinstating the school capitation grant to pre2010 levels for all schools.
- Exploring the phasing out of homework in primary schools
- Establishing nationwide book schemes and ending voluntary school contributions in publicly funded schools.
- Prioritising supports for homeless students, students in direct provision and students from disadvantaged areas to help them stay and progress in education.
- Funding specific resources (particularly Special Needs Assistants) and special classrooms for children with Special Educational Needs to meet local demand. › Mapping school catchment areas to ensure enrolment for all learners at primary and post primary levels.
- Enacting the Oireachtas education committee recommendations in relation to relationship and sexuality education, particularly related to the well-being and inclusion of LGBTQ+ students.
- Ensuring that students' ethnicity and religion (or non-religion) are not barriers to their enrolment and participation in school.

- The encouragement of community involvement in food growing through allotments and community and school gardens
- Recognising school as an important environment for young people which supports their mental health and well-being, as well as recognising the importance of the positive mental health of teachers and staff.
- Introduction of a food module to the primary school curriculum dealing with all aspects of food, from its growth and production, to its nutritional content and how to cook it.
- Linking local farm produce to schools through the School Meals Programme.
- To improve education for young people in SPHE/RSE classes to reduce transphobic bullying both in schools and after leaving school.
- Strengthen current sexual health education and make all elements of the curriculum mandatory.
- Provide teacher training to encourage more girls to pursue technical subjects, and 'non-traditional' areas of study, such as engineering, science and politics.
- Recommend the appointment of a School Mental Health Officer to 'mental health proof' the culture of every secondary school so that all staff feel confident to teach children with mental health needs in a supportive way and know clearly how and where to refer those who may be in crisis.
- Requiring school children to participate in at least half an hour of physical education every day, including in exam years.
- Developing an Irish cultural studies subject which values the heritage, language, nature, biodiversity and culture of Ireland in the global landscape.
- Introduce a programme of bicycle maintenance and safe cycling education in schools to improve cycling behaviour and the safety of bicycles on the road.
- Developing and implementing a strategy for adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills.
- Equipping young people with the knowledge and skills to prepare for and tackle the global climate crisis, through extended youth platforms and additional supports for green community projects and research
- Provide art education at every stage of primary and secondary level and expand and mainstream the Creative Schools Programme to develop artistic talent and audiences for the future.

Law

- Lowering the voting age to 16.
- Establish a dedicated family court within the existing court structures, to ensure that matters dealing with family law and child law are always dealt with separately to the general list
- Providing more funding and administrative support to the community policing model and youth engagement programs.
- Work towards ending Direct Provision and replacing it with a not for profit system based on accommodation provided through existing or new approved housing bodies. At the same time, implement all the recommendations of the McMahon Report to improve conditions for Asylum Seekers currently living in the system.
- Support a path for regularisation of undocumented migrants, broaden access to family reunification and allow easier access to the labour market

- Provide better support for women and children who are in the direct provision system to guarantee their wellbeing, including an adequate allowance, access to appropriate facilities and clarity in the law to prevent child trafficking.
- The addition of protection for transgender and intersex people to existing hate crime legislation and its inclusion in any new legislation.