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# Education, Employment & Skills: Councillor Sarah Merry

# CAPITAL AMBITION



We know that a great education will help everyone in Cardiff to achieve their full potential. This Administration will continue to invest in and improve our schools and to make sure that every child has the best possible start in life.

Education is one of the surest routes out of poverty, and so we will double our efforts to make sure that no child is left behind. We will focus on closing the gap in attainment of pupils from low-income families, looked after children, pupils educated other than at school and pupils with English as an additional language.

As Cardiff grows over the next 20 years, we will ensure that we meet the demand for more places in both English and Welsh medium schools by providing more schools and doing all that we can to attract, retain and develop the best teaching talent. In doing so, we will open our schools up for more community use, strengthening the important role that every school plays at the heart of their community.

Education doesn't end at the school gate. If everyone in the city is to benefit from the jobs and opportunities being created in our growing economy, every school leaver must be able to move into further education, employment or training. We know too that education is one of the main drivers of economic success, and so we are committed to working with Cardiff's business community to make sure that the city's skills system for both children and adults meets the needs of business, now and in the future.

## We will:

- Make sure **every child in Cardiff goes to a good or excellent school.**
- **Close the attainment gap in schools so that no child is left behind.**
- **Invest in improving and expanding our schools** to meet the needs of a rapidly-growing population and take clear steps to address the historic maintenance backlog in school buildings.
- **Support the development of the new curriculum** for Wales, with a focus on key skills such as **digital literacy.**
- **Ensure that the support services** we offer schools are of high quality and good value.
- **Deliver the 'Cardiff Commitment' and promote junior apprenticeships,** ensuring that every child has access to training, employment, or further education opportunities when leaving school.
- **Put schools at the heart of our communities,** strengthening links between schools and their local areas.
- **Work towards becoming a UNICEF 'Child Friendly City'** as part of a partnership programme focussed on child rights.
- Ensure that **education is everyone's business** by working with all partners across the city- including businesses, parents, school governors- to get the best for Cardiff schools.
- Support the Credit Union to deliver "savers projects" within Cardiff schools that encourage saving and promote financial literacy.