



Fair
Education
Alliance

Information Pack 2023

About the Fair Education Alliance

The Fair Education Alliance is a coalition of 250 of the UK's leading organisations from business, the third sector and education, all working towards a world where our education system is fair – where no child's educational success is limited by their socio-economic background. This is a world where disadvantage no longer determines literacy and numeracy rates at primary school, GCSE attainment at secondary school, the emotional wellbeing and resilience of young people, participation in further education or employment-based training, or university admissions.



The Problem

Education is not fair

Young people from low-income communities are much less likely to succeed in education

Progress is too slow

Progress in tackling educational inequality is too slow because work is fragmented and done in silos

Our vision and mission

Our vision is a country where no child's success is determined by their socioeconomic background.

No one organisation, sector or even government can fix these complex issues.

We need a new approach to tackle educational inequality collectively, and to work across sectors, organisations and individuals.

The case for change from young people






Supporting youth leadership is central to the work of the FEA and we are calling for a sector-wide shift in youth participation. Our youth steering group leads in bringing the perspective of young people to our work. Here's what young people had to say about why the sector should work with them as equal partners going forward:

"Young people should become partners with us to share their experiences explaining every little detail that can ultimately help more in the future. With the recent pandemic of COVID, they can offer their perspective and opinions on what they thought about COVID and how severely it affected them."
– Anees, FEA Youth Steering Group

"Young people have the most up to date experience of how education affects them and actions that are needed for effective change. Furthermore, it is essential that young people are seen as equal collaborators rather than a tokenistic tool to be moulded to fit someone else's agenda. Equal partnership allows us to feel safe and be our authentic selves." – Denise, FEA Youth Steering Group

"Young people are the best experts on their own experiences. In an area such as education young people can provide the most accurate perspectives and ideas for improvement. Especially with recent events they can go past statistics and provide their opinions on situations like COVID." – Scarlett, FEA Youth Steering Group

Our 5 Impact Goals

-  **Impact Goal 1:** Narrow the gap in literacy and numeracy at primary school
-  **Impact Goal 2:** Narrow the gap in GCSE attainment at secondary school
-  **Impact Goal 3:** Ensure young people develop social and emotional competencies, good mental health and wellbeing
-  **Impact Goal 4:** Narrow the gap in the proportion of young people taking part in further education or training after finishing their GCSEs
-  **Impact Goal 5:** Narrow the gap in university access

What is needed to close the gaps

The FEA's four collective priorities were agreed across our membership in 2017, and these priorities remain as relevant now as they were then. Our recommendations for what is needed to secure a fairer education for every child focus on what we measure, value, and invest in.



Gives all young people a rounded education, ensuring that skills and wellbeing are prioritised alongside attainment



Engages parents and carers so education goes beyond the school gates

We want to see an inclusive education system which...



Supports, incentivises and rewards teachers and leaders to enable all children to thrive



Gives all young people the knowledge, skills and awareness to succeed in life after school

How we work to close the gaps

FEA outcomes

To speed up progress the FEA aims to create...

Shared a unified collective message about what we want for education in England and how we can achieve it

Increased connections and collaboration across the ecosystem so organisations learn from each other, avoid duplication and act together

Increase diversity of leadership in education by investing in young people as co-leaders of our movement, and ensuring underrepresented groups are given platforms to lead change

Scale initiatives systemically to tackle entrenched issues in the areas of greatest need

Our activities

We do this by...

Overarching Campaign Group

Weekly Bulletin

Youth Engagement Strategy

Innovation Award

Report Card

Collective Action Working Groups

Award Winners

Intrapreneurship Award

Submissions

Flagship Events

Member engagement & promotion

Scaling Award

Digital Membership Tools

Digital Membership Tools

Our strategy includes four clear aims

1. Influencing policy and practice through our unified message

through

Annual Report Card
Working groups & roundtables
Statements, letters and responses

outcome

We co-created our last annual report card with our members. We deliver a regular and consistent campaign of open letters, submissions and responses to government inquiries.

2. Connecting and coordinating actors across the ecosystem

through

Collective action
Digital tools
National events
Weekly bulletin

outcome

Members are delivering collectively agreed strategies through their organisational activities and leveraging peer support to increase impact for young people.

3. Increasing diverse leadership of the education agenda

through

Youth Steering Group
Youth Engagement Working Group
Ensuring equity, diversity and inclusion in FEA activities

outcome

A youth engagement strategy embeds youth voice, enabling young people to participate in decision making and support youth social action.

4. Scaling impactful solutions systemically

through

Innovation Award
Intrapreneurship Award
Scaling Award

outcome

Impactful and innovative solutions are supporting more young people from disadvantaged backgrounds

The Fair Education Alliance's work is made possible thanks to the generous support of:

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Board of Trustees



Chair of Trustees



Dr Vanessa Ogden

Vice Chair of Trustees



Dame
Julia Cleverdon

Read the Trustees' bios [here](#).



Natalie Perera



Richard Hardie



Lamide Odanye



Brett Wigdortz



Zulum Elumogo



Russell Hobby

The Secretariat

Q3 2022/23



Sam Butters
Co-CEO (Phased return
from 8th Feb 23)



Gina Cicerone
Co-CEO

Read the Secretariat's bios [here](#).



Naomi Turner
Team Coordinator and
Exec Assistant



Janeen Hayat
Director of Collective
Action



Marika Johanson
Head of Impact and
Evaluation



Siwan Davies
Director of
Scaling Impact



Becca Weighell
Youth
Engagement
Manager



Zoë Morgan
Membership
Engagement
Manager



Christine Fleming
Head of
Communications



Daniel Rooney
Digital Project
Manager



Dan Vogel
Impact and
Evaluation
Coordinator



Tisha Verma
Head of
Intrapreneurship
Award



Hannah Feld
Awards Manager

Board of Advisors

Key champions of the FEA, including funders, high profile educationalists, policymakers, senior social entrepreneurs, young people and collective action expert

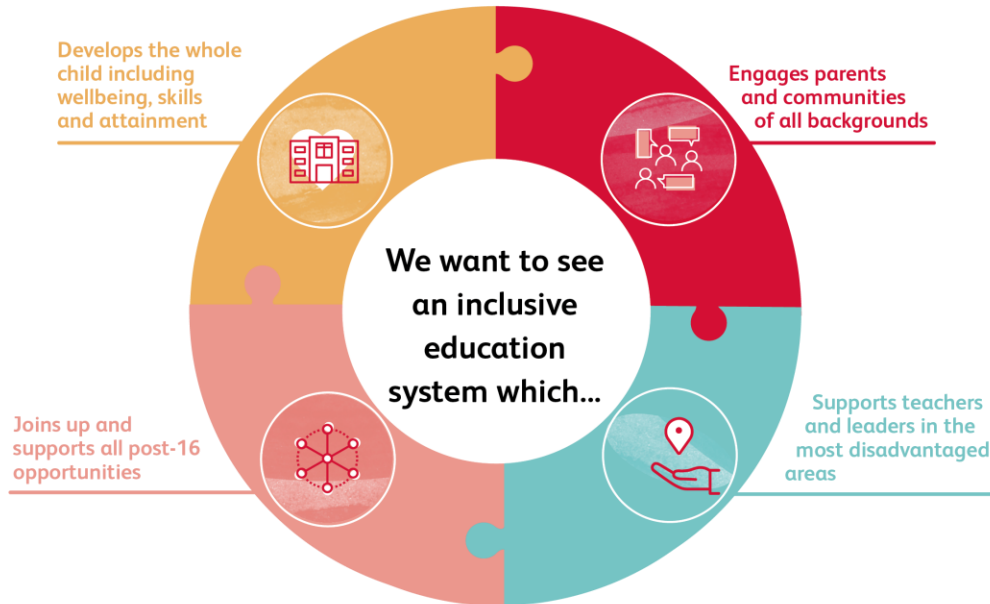
Steering Group

A subset of our member organisations, including business supporters, who meet quarterly to input on the FEA's strategic direction.

Youth Steering Group

A group of 20 young people who provide youth leadership across FEA Secretariat and member activity. Find more information on our youth steering group [here](#).

Collective Action



In order to create the inclusive education system that we want to see, we know that we cannot work in isolation. Therefore, we bring together members to take collective action.

We do this in the following ways:

- Capacity building support for member led collective action
- By joining up with others (Joining the dots), FED, Big Change, ASCL, Rethinking Assessment

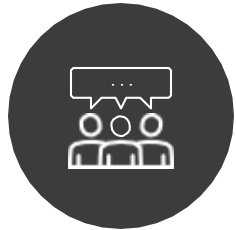
FEA working groups

We unite our members and key stakeholders in our Collective Action working groups.



Overarching Campaign Working Group

This group helps us frame and develop the Fair Education Alliance's overall message and collective agenda, with information fed in from all other working groups. Importantly this group is then used to guide all our work – including what we focus our collective action on, our policy and influencing (statements, letters, media etc) and also shapes our support for Scaling Impact Programmes.



Delivery

This group meets every 2 weeks to share best practice and support each other in working through challenges related to digital and in-person programmes with young people.

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Community of Practice for Youth Engagement in Education

These monthly capacity building workshops are for our members and the wider education sector to discuss youth engagement best practice. This group is co-facilitated by young people and is open to all organisations wanting to improve their youth engagement in the education and youth sectors.



Youth Participation Collective Action

This group will bring together members and youth representatives to advocate for The Department of Education, Ofsted, Ofqual, The Education Select Committee, Education related APPGs, DCMS and Number 10 to increase their youth participation. The group will meet monthly and will work towards the objective that young people are consulted on all policies affecting their education.

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Parental Engagement

[Learning with Parents](#) leads this group to drive forward a shared understanding across the sector of effective parental engagement and its pivotal role in addressing the attainment gap, and to transform parents' and carers' roles in education.

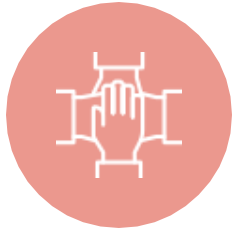


Wellbeing and Inclusion

This theme covers a breadth of topics – mental health, social-emotional learning, reducing exclusions, diversity, equality and inclusion, and more. Most recently this group met to share data and evidence on the link between attainment and mental health and wellbeing.

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Tackling Racial Inequality

This group looks at equality, inclusion and diversity in education.

They convened school and third sector leaders to respond to [research](#) by NFER on racial inequality in the teaching workforce and shared their ideas with the APPG for the teaching profession.



Volunteer Management

This is a new group created in response to challenges in volunteer attraction and retention which is impacting service delivery. The meetings will be a place to share best practices, ideas, challenges and research.

FEA working groups

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Tuition Advocacy

This group, led by [Action Tutoring](#) CEO Susannah Hardyman advocates the value of tuition in supporting schools and colleges, both in the context of the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) and the wider vision for tutoring in closing the gap. The group contributed to significant improvements to the NTP and provided expertise for member CfEY's report, '[Levelling Up Tutoring](#)'.



Early Years

This new group will convene to share

FEA Annual Summit



- This annual conference convenes FEA members and influential stakeholders to learn from each other to:
 - Gain practical knowledge and insights from within the network
 - Build organisational capacity
 - Expand your networks
- The conference is open to all staff from across FEA member organisations.
- Highlights from the 2022 Annual Summit [here](#).

FEA Government Consultation and policy responses

- We run events/meetings to hear about and input into government strategies and plans on education.
- Please see a full list of our submissions and policy responses [here](#).



FEA Report Card

- Every year the Fair Education Alliance produces an annual 'State of the Nation' Report Card measuring inequality from primary through to tertiary education.
- Members are encouraged to showcase this report to understand where the disadvantage gaps are and where to contribute to our collective effort.
- Read the 2022 Fair Education Alliance report [online](#).
- We also publish reports throughout the year in collaboration with our members, with our recommendations for change in key areas. These have received widespread news coverage.



Weekly Bulletin

- Each bulletin helps members keep up with news from other members and the wider sector, share asks for help and offers of support and to create opportunities for collaboration.
- Sign up to receive the Weekly Bulletin [here](#).
- To contribute to the Bulletin, please email info@faireductaion.org.uk



Digital Tools

Our digital membership tools support our members to target the areas of greatest need and **connect** and **collaborate** more effectively so that we **close the education gap** more quickly.

This **online**, secure platform will be **open to all staff** of all FEA members and includes the following:



Member directory – where members can find out information about other members – what they do, where they work, who their beneficiaries are, etc



Collaborative workspace – where members can access support, ask questions, and share resources with fellow members, either 1:1 or in groups



Ecosystem map – where members can identify cold spots through data on education outcomes mapped against institutions where members work

Youth Engagement



Thanks to funding from The Pears #iwill Fund we were able to co-develop a Youth Engagement Strategy with young people and our members in 2021. It outlines two strands of work we see as critical to achieving the goal set by the young people that is essential to our overall aim that no child's success is limited by their socio-economic background.

Young people, including those who face barriers to accessing a fair education, are respected and heard in all decisions affecting their education.

Young People are involved as equal partners in the work of the Fair Education Alliance.

This includes:

- Having two Young Trustees
- Establishing a Youth Steering Group
- Involving young people in our Collective Action & Policy Influencing
- Young people having leadership roles in our Communications, Events and Awards

The Fair Education Alliance improve, support, and celebrate Youth Social Action across society.

This includes:

- Youth Engagement Working Group.
- Leadership of #iwill Education Sector Group

Awards

INNOVATION

We support up to 6 individuals with new ideas that challenge the status quo and tackle the root causes of educational inequality in England.

- ✓ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & FEA MEMBERS
- ✓ ONE YEAR OF SUPPORT
- ✓ 120 HOURS OF TRAINING + 20 HOURS OF 1:1 EXPERT SUPPORT
- ✓ SIX MONTH SALARY CONTRIBUTION OF £22,500

SCALING

We support up to 7 members to scale solutions with proven impact to reach the young people in England who need it most.

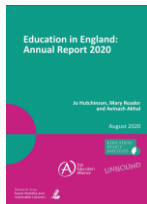
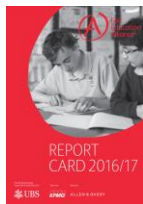
- ✓ OPEN TO FEA MEMBERS
- ✓ TWO YEARS OF SUPPORT
- ✓ BESPOKE SUPPORT TACKLING KEY CHALLENGES TO SCALE
- ✓ ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RESIDENTIAL

Supported by:

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Next application windows:
Innovation - Spring 2024
Scaling - Spring/Summer 2025

Find our previous report cards [here](#)



2012

Teach First created the Impact Goals. Our founding members came together to agree five Fair Education Impact Goals. These are targets which, if achieved, will substantially reduce educational inequality. The goals follow the educational journey of a child from primary school through to higher education and employment (see p.8 for our Impact Goals).

2014

The FEA was launched to bring together the hundreds of committed organisations and individuals across education, policy, third sector and business who believed that by working together, learning from each other, sharing evidence and amplifying our efforts through our networks, we can drive change more quickly. **Annual report cards.** Every year since 2014, we published our annual state of the nation report card, measuring educational inequality and putting forward our recommendations to close the gaps between the most disadvantaged children and their peers.

2015

The secretariat was born.

We had our first full-time staff member focused on connecting our growing membership and driving changes together. **We focused on our Impact Goals working groups.** We pushed forward our recommendations and published influential reports on numeracy, wellbeing, and contextualised university admissions. These received widespread news and our membership swelled to over 100.

2018

Collective Action Priorities were jointly decided on by members at our Annual Summit.

2019

We merged with the Teach First Innovation Unit and launched three Scaling Impact Awards to nurture and scale impactful solutions. We also launched our 3 year strategy and produced our first Annual Report.

2021

We co-developed our Youth Engagement Strategy with young people and members, and as a result, recruited our first Youth Steering Group cohort.

2022 and beyond...

The changing social context around the FEA's work.

A cost-of-living crisis, teacher retention crisis, and persistent post-Covid learning loss create greater challenges than ever, and unstable political leadership jeopardises funding and momentum. The FEA will pivot to influence where it can have the greatest impact.

