

THE FAIR EDUCATION MANIFESTO



Summarised By Our Youth Steering Group

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

We are currently facing difficult times as a nation, with topics like climate change and the cost-of-living crisis dominating our news cycles. However, to address these issues in a meaningful way, future generations must have the skills to create sustainable solutions. Education is foundational to our dream future of tackling crime, widening economic opportunities, and improving health and welfare. And yet, education is not at the top of the government's priority list. This needs to change. The Fair Education Manifesto recommendations are a starting point for the reform the education system desperately needs.



LOSING YOUR FAVOURITE TEACHERS?

With teachers being driven out of the profession in high numbers and recruitment targets being missed, without this aim, our goal in tackling educational inequality would not be possible. If there aren't enough teachers, the remaining few are left overworked and not able to prioritise the most disadvantaged. Not only do we need to reform pay, but also tackle the toxic culture of a lack of inclusivity and the excessive workload piled onto our staff.

LET'S STABILISE THE SCHOOL WORKFORCE!

- Develop a long-term plan to make pay fair and more competitive.
- Make the profession more inclusive. This includes racial inclusion and more flexibility to support working parents.
- Reduce teacher workload and stress through a more supportive Ofsted system that recognise the complex work that school staff do, especially when helping the most disadvantaged students.

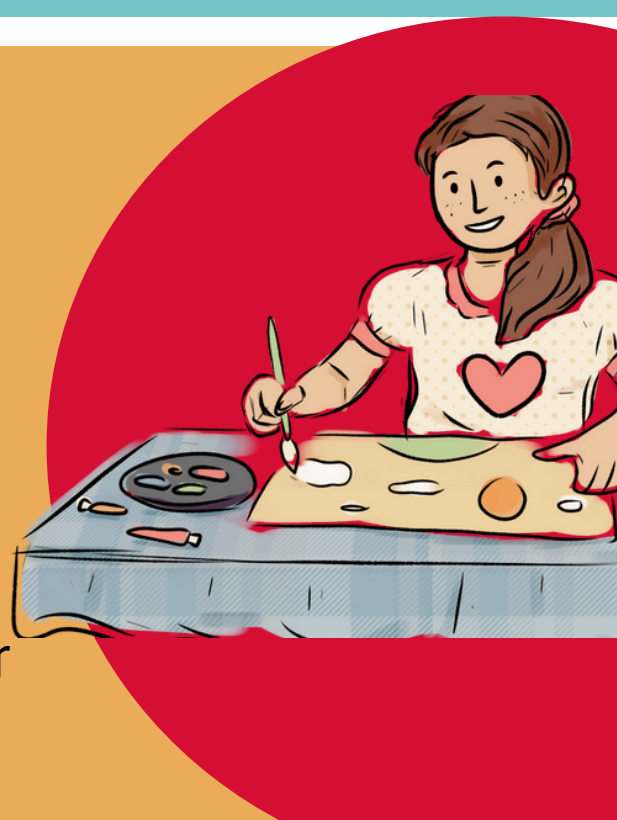


FEEL LIKE YOU AREN'T GETTING WHAT YOU NEED FROM YOUR EDUCATION?

Young people aren't getting the skills employers say they need and are not having a positive experience with school either. Often schools value young people's exam results over their mental health. This puts tremendous stress on the student and ultimately both their grades and mental health at risk. Furthermore, pupils are not being taught the right skills to thrive in today's society. Creativity, confidence and innovation aren't sufficiently valued. To prepare young people to be future leaders and changemakers, we must prepare them with the right skills to do so.

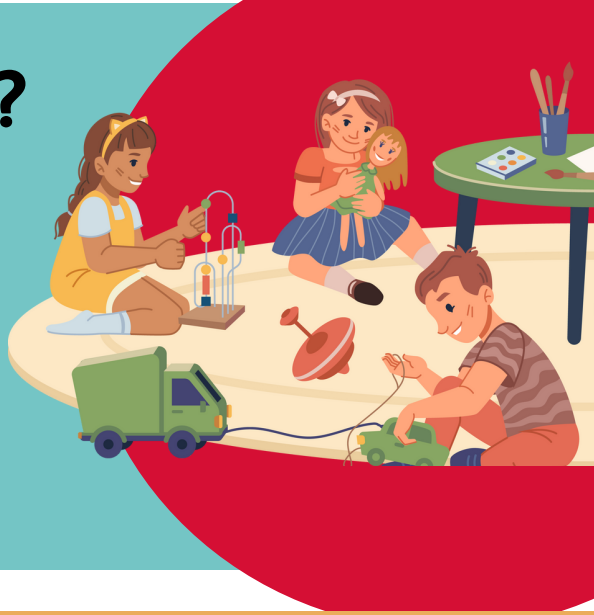
LET'S VALUE WELLBEING AND SKILLS !

- Reform the curriculum so that it builds essential skills like communication and creativity.
- Modernise the assessment system to allow every child to showcase their strengths while making sure changes don't further disadvantage lower-income students
- National surveys collect comprehensive data on the wellbeing of young people so that funders can better understand where investment is needed and how to improve wellbeing.
- Give young people the opportunity to meaningfully participate in decisions impacting their education



DID YOU FEEL BEHIND IN YOUR EDUCATION FROM AN EARLY AGE?

Poorer children are more likely to be behind in development before they start school. We must make high-quality early years education accessible to all children, regardless of the family’s circumstance or their SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) status. This is the start of closing the attainment gap, 40 % of which already exists at reception.



WE NEED BETTER EARLY YEARS SUPPORT:

- Increase government funding to nurseries so it covers the true cost of providing free hours to families.
- Bring the Early Years Pupil Premium in line with the amount given to primary school children.
- Develop a strategy to strengthen the Early Years Education workforce, including better pay and creative routes into the profession (e.g., ways to train while caring for your own children)

DO YOU FEEL LOOKED AFTER BY YOUR COMMUNITY?

Pressures on school budgets have taken a toll on the abilities of schools to educate their students to a high standard. Yet, schools are increasingly focusing on getting pupils’ basic needs met, rather than educating them. This is primarily due to insufficient funding from public agencies such as the police, social care, mental health, and local authorities to help prevent problems rather than treat them only once something has gone wrong. Furthermore, there is not enough partnership between these services, and each communicates with families separately, causing confusion and inefficiency.



LET’S ADVOCATE FOR BETTER FUNDING AND A JOIN-UP OF SERVICES

- Increase funding for CAMHS, social care, community policing, social housing and other locally delivered services.
- Join-Up services on a national level, with all public services working towards a holistic outcome for children and families.
- Create a unique child number across all public services to support communication across services.
- Extend Free School Meals eligibility to all children whose families are eligible for universal credit; this is to ensure that no child goes hungry at school.
- -Increase Pupil Premium funding and extend the scheme to early years and 16-19 education.



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“This manifesto lays out a clear path for tackling educational inequality by putting the needs of children and young people first. We have been involved in shaping the policy recommendations included in this manifesto and support them all.”

ABOUT THE FEA:

The Fair Education Alliance unites 250 organisations, all brought together by the belief that every child deserves a great education regardless of their socio-economic background. From universities and schools, to businesses, charities and more, our members work with young people throughout every stage of their education. There is a collective commitment to tackling inequality in education and helping all children and young people succeed.