

The Fair Education Alliance Youth Steering Group

The Fair Education Alliance is a coalition of over 280 members working to end inequality in education.
We are recruiting up to 15 new members to join our Youth Steering Group.

What do the Youth Steering Group do?

- **Lead your own campaigns** to reduce inequality in education, this includes running events, influencing decision makers, engaging with the media, and creating content.
- Work together with our members and other young people to **bring about change**, this includes joint campaigning and meeting with government and decision makers.
- **Provide leadership** for youth engagement across the Alliance and influence our strategic decisions.
- **Support innovation** in the education sector by judging our Innovation Award and helping members and innovators better serve young people and their communities.
- **Champion youth social action** in education and across society.

Who is eligible?

To take part in the Youth Steering Group you need to:

- Be aged between 14 -24 on January 31st 2024.
- Have been to school, college, or university in England and/or be doing an apprenticeship in England.
- Be passionate about reducing inequality in education.

You do not need:

- Any previous experience of being on a youth advisory group or doing youth social action.
- Any specific qualifications or level of education.
- To be based in London.

Priority will be given to underrepresented young people including those who face barriers to a fair education.

How will it be beneficial to me?



You will work with others to **bring about change**, be heard by decision makers and shape the future of education.



You will develop **transferrable skills** such as leadership, teamwork, communication, and campaigning.



You can build your network, meet interesting people and **make new friends**.

What do we need you to commit to?



Joining monthly calls

The first Tuesday of every month, 5-6:30pm, on Zoom. The first one on February 6th 2024.



Attending a training day

On Saturday 24th February 2024 in London. All travel and food paid for.



One Year in the Group

From February 2024 to January 2025.



Our Values and Code of Conduct

Fair, Impactful, Inclusive, Learners, Helpful, Honesty and Fun.

How do I apply?

1. Please complete [this application form](#) **by 11pm on Thursday 11th January 2024.** (written or voicenotes)
2. If you need support with your application or have questions please email youth@faireducation.org.uk or click to sign up to come to one of our **drop in sessions** on [December 20th](#) or [January 4th](#).
3. All shortlisted applicants will be invited to **a selection workshop**, so please also hold 5:00-6:30pm on **Wednesday 24th January.**

The Fair Education Alliance Youth Steering Group

Further Information

This information sheet will tell you more about the Fair Education Alliance Youth Steering Group, what activities the group do, the commitment we are asking for, how you might benefit from taking part, who is eligible and how to apply.

Context and Background

The Fair Education Alliance is a coalition of over [280 member organisations](#) who are all working collectively to ensure no child's success is limited by their socio-economic background¹.

We believe that to make education fair, young people should be leading the change alongside adults, involved in designing and scaling the solutions. This is why we worked with young people to co-develop a [Youth Engagement Strategy](#) and establish a Youth Steering Group. You can find out more about the current cohort [here](#).

Youth Steering Group members are asked to commit to a minimum of one year, but all have the option of a second year. This round of recruitment is to replace the second year group members who are moving on.

What is the Youth Strategy Group? What do they do?

The Youth Strategy Group is a group of 25 young people with different experiences of the education system, who all want to improve education and make it fair. The group work together to:

- **Lead their own campaigns** to reduce inequality in education, this includes running events, influencing decision makers, engaging with the media, and creating content.
- Work together with our members and other young people to **bring about change**, this includes joint campaigning, attending working groups and meeting with government and decision makers.
- **Provide leadership** for youth engagement across the Alliance and **hold us to account** on the Youth Engagement Strategy.
- **Support innovation** in the education sector by judging our Innovation Award and helping members and innovators better serve young people and their communities.
- **Influence our decision making** by nominating representatives to participate in our Board of Trustee meetings and join Secretariat team days where possible.
- **Champion youth social action** in education and across society by sharing tools, opportunities and success stories with other young people and educators.

Examples of activities the Youth Steering Group have done include advising Ofsted on their strategy, taking part in youth roundtable at 10 Downing Street, sharing concerns and ideas with The Children's Commissioner, campaigning on Police in Schools, leading our Fair Education Youth Summit, producing their youth bulletin, running their own events, joining our Board meeting, and going to party conferences.

What would I need to commit to?

We ask everyone applying for the Youth Steering Group to commit to:



Joining monthly calls

The first Tuesday of every month, 5-6:30pm, on Zoom. The first one on February 6th 2024.



One Year in the Group

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Attending a training day

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¹ Socio-economic inequality means someone is treated differently, or has access to different services or opportunities, because of either social (how they are seen in society) or economic (money) factors. For example, we know that children from poorer backgrounds do not get the same school opportunities as children from wealthier families.

What is in it for me?

We want this group to be beneficial not only for the Fair Education Alliance and for making progress towards the goal of reducing socio-economic inequality in education, but also for you. The benefits of taking part include:



You will work with others to **bring about change**, be heard by decision makers and shape the future of education, helping us move closer to our shared goal.



You will develop **transferrable skills** such as leadership, teamwork, communication, and campaigning, all of which are great on your CV or UCAS application. You will also be supported to develop a personal development plan and work towards your goals.



You can build your network, meet interesting people and **make new friends** as you will be working closely with other young people and organisations who are passionate about reducing inequality in education and making education fair.

What to do if I have questions?

We are hosting **two drop-ins on Zoom** where you can come to find out more, ask questions or get help with your application. They are open to everyone, and you can join at any time during the hour. They are:

- 4:30-5:30pm on Wednesday 20th December – [Register here](#).
- 5:00 – 6:00pm on Thursday 4th January – [Register here](#).

Otherwise, if you have any questions about this project, please email youth@faireducation.org.uk

How do I apply?

To apply please complete [this application form](#) **by 11pm on Thursday 11th January**.

To answer the questions **you can either write, upload a video or upload a voice note**.

If for any reason you are not able to submit your application, please get in touch [via email](#) and we can support you to apply in a different way.

The application form is mainly questions about you, for example how old you are and where you live, but it also includes three longer questions which you need to either write between 100-150 words for or record a video or voicenote for one-two minutes. The longer questions are:

- **How would you introduce yourself in one minute to someone you had never met?**
- **At the Fair Education Alliance, we want to see a fair education system where no child's success is limited by their socioeconomic background. Why would you like to be involved in this work and be part of this group? What is your motivation?**
- **If you could change one thing about education/schools in England, what would it be?**

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of three Fair Education Alliance staff and six existing members of the Youth Steering Group. We will contact everyone who applies by Thursday 18th January. The shortlisted applicants will then be invited to a **selection workshop on Wednesday 24th January on Zoom**. This is not an interview, it will be a chance for you to get to know us, ask questions and take part in activities.

The final decision will be based on making sure we have lots of different experiences reflected in the group, and importantly that everyone is passionate about reducing the impact of socio-economic inequality in education. This year we particularly encourage applications from young men, young people with experience of alternative provision education settings, disabled young people, looked after young people, asylum seeking/refugee young people and young people living in the North East and South West of England.

We look forward to hearing from you!