



The Worshipful Company of Educators



The Educators' Trust

2023-2024 *Inspirational Educator Award*

Theme: Mental Health in Education

Guidance for Nominators

The Trust of the Worshipful Company of Educators wishes to bestow its awards for inspirational educators in 2024 on outstanding educational practitioners working in mental health in schools, colleges and universities. Nominees do not have to be qualified teachers. The Trustees particularly welcome nominations for candidates who are delivering learning in challenging, unconventional or community settings.

The award is open to full- part-time or self-employed educators teaching, supporting or facilitating educational activities at any level of education, in any educational setting, with any type or age of learner. It is, therefore, open to educators working across a wide range of establishments and at various stages in their careers. Nominations would be welcomed for those who teach, train, coach or mentor other educators or who are specialist programme innovators, project developers and managers, so long as practical impact can be demonstrated. Researchers in the field of pedagogy are also eligible.

There are **eight** prizes for the Award of *Inspirational Educator* in Mental Health Education, each of £500. Winners will also receive a certificate, an inscribed crystal glass plaque, and will be invited to the Trust's Award Dinner in London along with their Nominators.

Nominators may submit more than one candidate, but each nomination must be for an individual not a team. Nominations are assessed by a panel of three judges experienced in educational evaluation. They will be joined by an expert in mental health education. Since there is no external validation, the judges make their assessment on the basis of nominations alone, so the quality of nominations is vitally important.

Nominations must:

- a) be **factual** and **balanced**
- b) describe and **provide evidence** of the nominee's outstanding practice (this may qualitative or quantitative)
- c) **demonstrate** the impact achieved by the nominee
- d) **focus** on the individual's successes rather than those of the nominating organisation
- e) keep to a word limit of **500** words, excluding Part 1. A small annex of supporting material would be acceptable, though not essential.

How to apply:

There is no standard application form to allow for diverse learning environments, so Nominators are asked to structure their nominations under the following two headings:

1. Organisational Context (not included in the word limit)

- name of organisation
- type of organisation
- size of education department or relevant unit (ie number of staff and students (estimated annual average)
- main characteristics of setting(s) in which the nominee works
- position(s) the nominee has held/currently holds
- how long the educator has been employed in the role
- any relevant professional education/ training/experience.

2. The Nominee (500 word limit):

Nominations should provide **evidence** of activity which meet several of the following criteria, depending on the character of the organisation in which the nominee works, its location in the sector, its learning setting and the career stage of the nominee.

The Trust is familiar with the diverse range of settings in which mental health support and learning take place. The criteria seek to cover all types of establishments so does not expect nominees to meet **all** of the criteria.

Criteria:

Teaching, learning and support:

- A commitment to improving the social, emotional, mental health and well-being of students in an educational setting
- A good grounding in the philosophies, models and types of contemporary practice in mental health support in education provision
- A sound knowledge of the research evidence of the effectiveness of different approaches, strategies and interventions.
- An innovative and dynamic approach and commitment to 'whole institution' practice and the related training and continuous professional learning of education and support staff, where appropriate
- A differentiated approach to student engagement, using a range of learning resources and addressing issues of inclusion and diversity
- A concern to raise awareness of SEMH with young people in the community through various promotional events and activities, facilitating effective peer support
- A sound track record of building sustainable collaborative links with relevant professional mental health agencies

- Imaginative, nuanced and individuated ways of working closely and constructively with parents, carers and friends
- Evidence of acknowledgement of achievement in the field, e.g., external awards/prizes/bursaries, external invitations for the nominee and/or her or his students to give presentations, join projects, attend conferences, run workshops or other activities
- The progress in terms of well-being of students where the nominee has had significant input.

Research (Optional for relevant nominees)

- A firm foundation in the literature on mental health in education
- A good understanding of the research methods and techniques pertinent to the understanding of what works in educational settings
- An understanding of how to measure the effectiveness of an intervention in terms of well-being and educational outcomes
- Research outputs that demonstrate an ability to complete research tasks within a given Awards 23-24 text for web PBI DRAFTtime-frame, such as seminar presentations of 'work-in-progress', workshop papers, published reviews or articles
- Awards or funding for research activity from the home institution or external organisations

Timescale:

Deadline for nominations **15th December 2023**

Announcement of winners **beginning of February 2024**

Awards presented to winners, with their Nominators, on **19th April 2024** at the Trust's Annual Awards Dinner in Merchant Taylors' Hall, City of London.

Nominations to be sent by email attachment to:

Dr Jennifer Somerville
Chairman of Trustees
The Educators' Trust

Email: chair@educatorstrust.org.uk