



The Worshipful Company of Educators



The Educators' Trust

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Educators' Trust Awards 2024-5 *Inspirational Educator Award*

Theme: Early Childhood Education

Guidance for Nominators

The Trustees of the Worshipful Company of Educators wish to award inspirational educators in 2025 working in early childhood education. Nominees do not have to be qualified teachers. The Trustees particularly welcome nominations for candidates 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 with children aged between three and eleven years of age (Foundation & Key Stages 1 & 2). It is open to educators working across a wide range of establishments and at various stages in their careers. Nominations are welcome 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 Early Childhood 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 early childhood 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 be 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:

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

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

- name of organisation
- type of organisation
- number of staff and pupils (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.

Part 2. The Nominee (500 word limit):

We are looking for nominees whose outstanding and educational practice has a tangible and sustained impact on the educational development of children at Foundation and Key Stages 1 & 2, and who may be justly called an ‘inspirational educator’.

Nominations should provide **evidence** of activity that 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 early childhood education takes place. **The criteria seek to cover all types of establishments, so the Trust does not expect nominees to meet all of the criteria.**

Criteria:

Teaching, Learning and Support:

- A commitment to improving the learning experience of children, addressing their social and emotional needs, and creating an environment in which they thrive
- A differentiated approach to pupil engagement, using a range of learning resources and addressing issues of inclusion and diversity
- Evidence of pupil progress, cognitively and socially
- A good grounding in the philosophies, models and types of contemporary practice in early childhood education
- A sound knowledge of the research evidence of the effectiveness of different approaches, strategies and interventions.

- A commitment to undertaking, promoting and contributing to continuous professional development
- Imaginative, nuanced and individuated ways of working closely and constructively with parents, carers and communities
- Evidence of achievement in the field, e.g., external awards/prizes/bursaries, external invitations for the nominee to give presentations, join projects, attend conferences, run workshops or other activities

Research (Optional for relevant nominees)

For nominees engaged in research, we are looking for outstanding research that has had a tangible and practical impact on the educational development of children at Foundation and Key Stages 1 & 2 of education.

- A firm foundation in the literature on early childhood education
- A good understanding of the research methods and techniques pertinent to the understanding of what works with these age groups
- 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 time-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 January 2025**
- Announcement of winners **15th February 2025**
- Awards presented to winners, with their Nominators, on **25th April 2025** 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
 Worshipful Company of Educators
 Email: chair@educatorstrust.org.uk