



The Worshipful Company of Educators



The Educators' Trust

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## Worshipful Company of Educators

### Educators' Trust Awards 2026 *Inspirational Educator Award*

#### Theme: Exercise and Sports Education

#### Guidance for Nominators

The Trustees of the Worshipful Company of Educators wish to award inspirational educators working in exercise and sports 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 any age group. 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.

There are **eight** prizes for the Award of *Inspirational Educator* in Exercise and Sports 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 the City of 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 exercise and sports 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 learners (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 educational development in the broadest sense, and who may be justly called an ‘inspirational educator’.

Nominations should provide **evidence** of activity that meets 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 exercise and sports education take place. **The criteria seek to cover all types of establishments, so the Trust does not expect nominees to meet all of the criteria.**

#### **Criteria:**

- A robust grounding in one or more of the disciplines that contribute to exercise and sports education
- A sound knowledge of the research evidence of the effectiveness of different approaches, strategies and interventions.
- An understanding of the contribution which physical activity makes to developing personal qualities, such as self-esteem, resilience and perseverance

- A dynamic and innovative approach to teaching and learning and student engagement, using a range of learning resources and addressing issues of inclusion and diversity
- An engagement with both sports professionals and educational practitioners to enrich the students' knowledge, skills and techniques
- A track record of building sustainable collaborative links with relevant organisations
- Evidence of achievement, e.g. external awards/prizes/bursaries, external invitations for the nominee to give presentations, join projects, run workshops or training sessions
- Achievement of participants on relevant courses or projects into which the nominee has had significant input (NB attendance and well-being outcomes may be as relevant as formal assessment and qualifications)
- A commitment to undertaking, promoting and contributing to continuous professional development

#### **Timescale:**

- Deadline for nominations **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**
- Announcement of winners **15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**
- Awards presented to winners, with their Nominators, on 24<sup>th</sup> **April 2026** 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](mailto:chair@educatorstrust.org.uk)