

The Worshipful Company of Educators



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The Educators' Trust

The Educators' Trust Annual Summer Event 2025

Excellence in Early years Education

Monday 9th June 2025

6.00-8.30pm

The Aldgate School
St James' Passage
Duke's Place
London EC3A 5DE

DRAFT PROGRAMME

The Master Educator and the Chair of the Educators' Trust welcome you to the

Educators' Trust Annual Summer Event 2025

Excellence in Early Years Education

Each year the Educators' Trust features a key theme in its annual awards programme, of interest to a broad spectrum of educationalists and the general public. In 2025, early years education was the topic for the eight Inspirational Educator awards, reflecting many current issues in that area. The winners from across the country were celebrated and presented with their awards at the annual Installation & Awards Dinner of The Worshipful Company of Educators on 25th April.

Draft Programme

1. The Headteacher of The Aldgate School

Welcome to the school by Alexandra Allan.

2. The Master Educator

Welcome to members of the Worshipful Company of Educators, Guests from other liveryies, and the wider world of education by Catherine McGuinness.

3. The Chair of the Board of Trustees

Introduction to the Trust and the awards programme by Dr Jennifer Somerville.

4. Award winners of the 2025 Inspirational Educator Award in Early Years Education

Molly Devlin, the headteacher of the eight schools of the charity, Ark Start Early Years. Molly's leadership is acknowledged nationally. She adapted the SEEN neuroscience training programme, developed by the University of Oxford, for early years teachers. It focuses on the development of neural networks in the brain and the critical role of early childhood experiences. The course has been recognised as a new additional unit to existing qualifications by the Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education.

Chinami Sakai, also a front-line teacher, but in the very different setting of museum arts and crafts. Chinami is Senior Producer for Informal Learning at Young V&A in Bethnal Green and has been central to positioning the museum as a learning space that bridges home-learning and nursery and school experience. Chinami is developing speech and language skills in young children through object handling, singing, rhyming and sensory play.

Rachel Higginson, a former headteacher but now a consultant to the Early Years sector across the country. Rachel is an expert in oracy, that is interventions in the classroom that extend pupils' spoken vocabulary, whether that is the articulation of ideas, or spoken expression of emotional content. It is thought to be a key factor in the children's cognitive and social development. Rachel founded an oracy-based programme, 'Findingmyvoice' based on research, which is now used extensively in primary schools.

5. The Wider Picture

Lucy O'Rorke, is the Director of Projects and Research at the Helen Hamlyn Trust. Among other projects she was responsible for the Trust's well-regarded Open Futures Learning Programme for primary school children. She is herself an experienced teacher in performing arts, stretching from universities and state schools to young offenders institutions, and at one time founding and running her own company.

Professor Maggie Atkinson is a former Children's Commissioner for England. After a career in teaching and curriculum development, Maggie changed direction and moved to children's services in local authorities across England, serving as President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services. She is now a Leadership and Management Consultant.

6. Questions & discussion with all present.

7. Concluding remarks by the Master with invitation to drinks...

The evening will end with an opportunity for conversations and networking over drinks and refreshments.

Our thanks to the staff of
The Aldgate School for their
assistance in hosting our
programme this evening.



The Aldgate School

*Faith, hope and love abide, these three:
and the greatest of these is love.*



<https://educatorstrust.org.uk>

The Educators' Trust
8 Little Trinity Lane, London EC4V 2AN

The Educators' Trust is incorporated under the Charities Act 2011 as
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