



School Differently Awards Programme

Who or what is School Differently?

School Differently is a social movement, bringing together all those advocating for change in education, irrespective of who they represent or their areas of expertise. It is open to all, with a website due to launch in October 2020.

There are five premises:

1. The purpose of an education system is to educate the child and prepare the adult
2. Educating the child goes wider than academic disciplines
3. Preparing the adult goes wider than the world of work
4. This purpose applies to ALL children and young people
5. The current education system requires a new framework to successfully achieve its purpose.

The awards programme

The purpose of the awards programme is to lift up all those who subscribe to these five premises and are demonstrating that there is a better way to support and educate children and young people, with the hope that others will then follow in their footsteps.

Categories may include:

- Whole schools
- School leaders
- Individual teachers/SENCOs/support staff/other educators
- Education support services (eg. MH programmes, Ed Psychs)
- Thought-leaders
- Authors
- Lawyers working in this field
- Academics working in this field

Nominations will be public. The judging panel will be compiled from the Square Peg and Independent Thinking networks, representing a spread of expertise. We will invest in the physical award as a symbol of what School Differently represents, to be proudly displayed by the winners and admired by their contemporaries.

Awards organiser

We are looking for an awards organiser who can add the School Differently award to their current portfolio. In return we anticipate that this award will gain significant interest from sponsors (eg. businesses operating in the Edtech, teacher training, school support, educational publishing and examination sectors).



About School Differently

School Differently challenges the current education system which many young people, parents and educators believe is no longer fit for purpose. Many of these failings have been inherent in the system for years, but have been brought to light more recently through the pandemic.

How is the system failing?

This cuts across everything:

- bums on seats in schools as the only way to provide education
- an overly academic national curriculum which lacks relevance for adult life in 2030 & beyond
- constant testing and exams (and the now-exposed 'moderation' process) & qualifications that do not represent skills or satisfy the needs of today's businesses
- (lack of) engagement & collaboration with parents
- a broken SEND (& CAMHS) systems which are failing too many children
- the fact that schools are now responsible for not just education but safeguarding, poverty, terrorism, knife-crime and mental health
- the degree of autonomy given to individual school leaders, who can be moral, ethical leaders, but can also be profit and results-driven
- the lack of agency given to teachers who now generally represent a demoralised workforce

Who's behind it?

Square Peg

[Square Peg](#) is a CIC that works to effect change for children with School Based Anxiety and their families. It works across academia and practice, and across a range of expertise, from education and psychology to law and technology.

Independent Thinking

[Independent Thinking](#) is an education company that has been working in this space for 26 years. It has an impressive associate network of 50 individuals who are all experts in a different aspect of education and who are regular public speakers. Independent Thinking Press publishes a range of books which challenge the norms in education.