



Introducing the Edge Foundation



Making Education Relevant

www.edge.co.uk

Making Education Relevant

The world is changing fast – education needs to keep up.

Who are we?

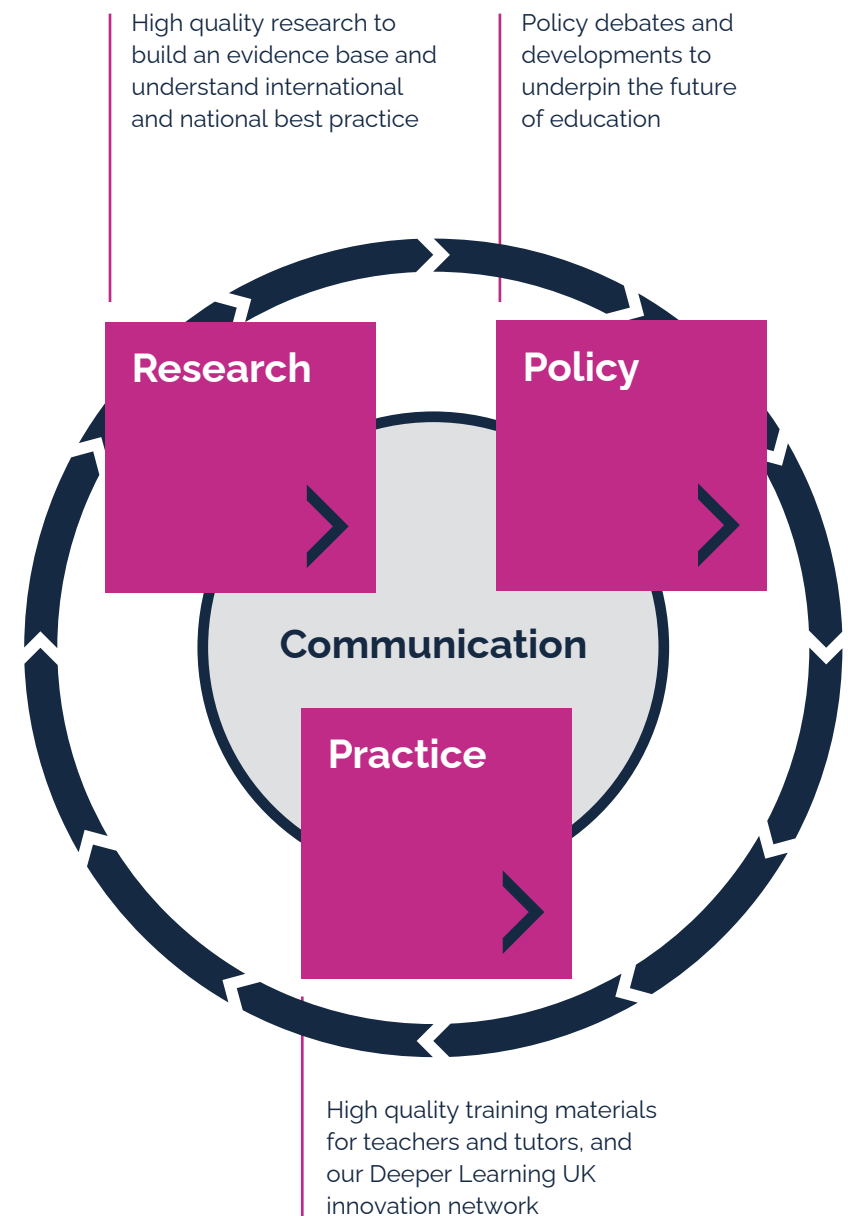
Edge is an independent, politically impartial foundation, working to inspire the education system to give all young people across the UK the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need to flourish in their future life and work. We work right across the UK with strong international links.

Our vision

We believe that all young people should have the opportunity to achieve their potential by having access to a relevant and engaging education. This can be achieved through high quality professional and vocational and technical education; a broad, flexible and engaging curriculum that includes real world learning; and rich relationships between education, employers and the community.

Our approach

We work in collaboration with non-governmental organisations, government departments and academic establishments and gather evidence through research, trials and projects. We use this to lead the debate around future policy and changing practice on the ground.



Where do we stand on education and training?

At Edge, we believe that a vibrant, coherent and relevant education system can enable all learners to fulfil their potential.

To do this, we collaborate closely with key national stakeholders including government, policy practitioners, teaching staff, students and external partners – and we also love learning from successful international examples to inspire innovative policy solutions back at home. By developing our policy reports, contributing to government and select committee consultations and collaborating with wider stakeholders, we look forward to continuing to shape the debate on the future of education.



Further Education – Defined, Career and Skills Focused, Collaborative



Further Education: Against the backdrop of a changing economy, and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, it is clear that we need our Further Education (FE) sector to be at the forefront of social and economic skills development. To do this, we want to see the sector become more defined, careers and skills focused, and collaborative, with colleges acting as anchor institutions and trusted services, working in partnership with training providers, schools and employers across their local areas.

Apprenticeships – Broader, Higher Quality, Better Prepared

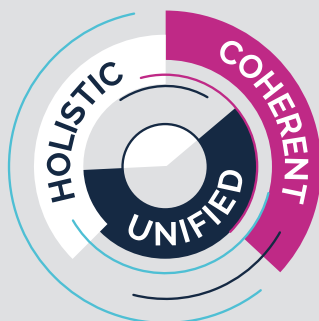
Apprenticeships are an important part of the education and training landscape and they have the potential to become even more ambitious and relevant to our future skills needs. We should be scaling up the things that already work well, raising participation and the quality of apprenticeships, and ensuring that they are an attractive route to work for all young people.



Schools and 14-19 Education – Coherent, Unified, Holistic

Schools are in a unique position to help shape our nation's future workforce, citizens of society and leaders. However, thousands of young people are being let down because the education system narrows so tightly at 16, it does not prepare them for the world of work, and the availability of high-quality, appropriate careers advice and guidance is variable across the UK.

Education in schools should be coherent (taking young people on a clear journey from school to preparedness for work), unified (bringing together 'academic', 'vocational' and 'technical' education in a single route) and holistic (helping young people to develop in the round, including the essential life skills that employers most value).



Curriculum and Assessment – Broader, Skills-based, Portfolio of Talent

BROADER
SKILLS
BASED

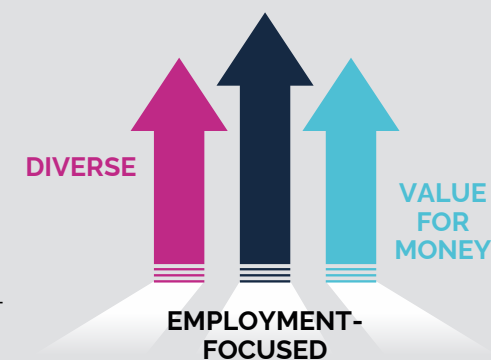


PORTFOLIO
OF TALENT

Curriculum and Assessment: Our 19th century curriculum and assessment system is not fit to prepare young people for the 21st century workplace. The content and approach of what we teach and assess is too narrow, at the exclusion of a wider portfolio of skills, experiences and competencies. This bleeds into our curriculum where the current emphasis on factual recall, over deep thinking, is restrictive. Teachers are spending a disproportionate amount of time preparing students for an inordinate number of high-stakes exams and this is squeezing out time for students to develop team-working, creative problem solving and communication skills. We need a truly broad and balanced curriculum.

Higher Education – Diverse, Employment-focused, Value for Money

Higher Education: The UK benefits from a world-class Higher Education (HE) sector which engages with high quality teaching, produces vital research and supports social and economic functions across the country. To maintain its reputation as a powerhouse for society and the economy, we want to see HE become more diverse, employment-focused and offer better value for money. We also urge policy makers to build on lessons of the past and to apply these lessons to current policy-making.



Our work

Research and Policy

We believe policy should be developed from the ground up, so we use our strong [research](#) base and the evidence we collect from our [projects](#) and [delivery work](#) to develop clear [policy proposals](#) for the future.

Research reports and practice library

We work with organisations, academics and researchers across the UK to develop our [research reports](#). While our focus is on vocational and technical education, employability and work-based learning, we also explore a range of topics across education including education technology, skills development and the principles around vocational and technical education philosophy.

Skills shortages bulletins

Our series of [skills shortages bulletins](#) convene key organisations and academics to explore skills shortages across key areas of the economy and the future of work.

Networks

Some examples of our [research](#) and [policy networks](#):

- **Research Review Group** which convenes more than fifty academics, researchers and foundations to digest latest research and policy development.
- **Innovative Higher Education Network** which convenes innovative providers from the Higher Education field.
- **European Research Network** which convenes a network of researchers from across Europe whose research broadly focus on technical and vocational education and training at all levels.
- **Emerging Researchers Network** which provides a platform and support for PhD students and early career researchers working on technical and vocational education and training research.
- **Education policy network** which brings together policy thinkers and practitioners to horizon scan and spark collaborative, solutions-focused discussions around policy reform.
- **Four Nations Policy Network** brings together civil servants and policy makers across the UK, providing a space to share current policy development and opportunities to collaborate.

Learning from the past

Our regular reviews explore historic policy initiatives that have influenced and driven change across the vocational and technical education system. So far, we have explored past policies such as the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), Young Apprenticeships, Connexions, and Entry to Employment among others. By [learning from the past](#) we hope to understand how previous policies worked, what went well, what were the challenges, and the lessons we can learn in [current policy](#) moving forward.

Our work across the Four Nations

We work with partners across the four nations to share best practice on how to shape policy in each of our local contexts. We do this through our research reports, our Four Nations Policy Network, and our work with the Four Nations College Alliance. We also work individually with each of the devolved governments through our popular workshop series bringing together policy makers, researchers, learners, employers and providers in each nation.





Communications

Events and webinars

Edge deliver a busy calendar of [events](#) and [webinars](#) throughout the year exploring topics from the purpose of education to assessment reform, employability and the future of education. Get in touch to partner with us or put forward a speaker.

Our highly popular Bacc to the Drawing Board webinar, held in May 2023, looked at what a baccalaureate model might look like in England. It brought together experts from across the education sector as well as politicians, to explore the principles of a baccalaureate and potential models for reform.

Podcasts

[Rethinking Education](#) – The Edge Podcast lifts the lid on the education system. In each episode Olly Newton connects with educationalists who are pioneering and research new ideas, pedagogies and practises that are making education relevant to life and work today and in the future.



Contribute to our channels

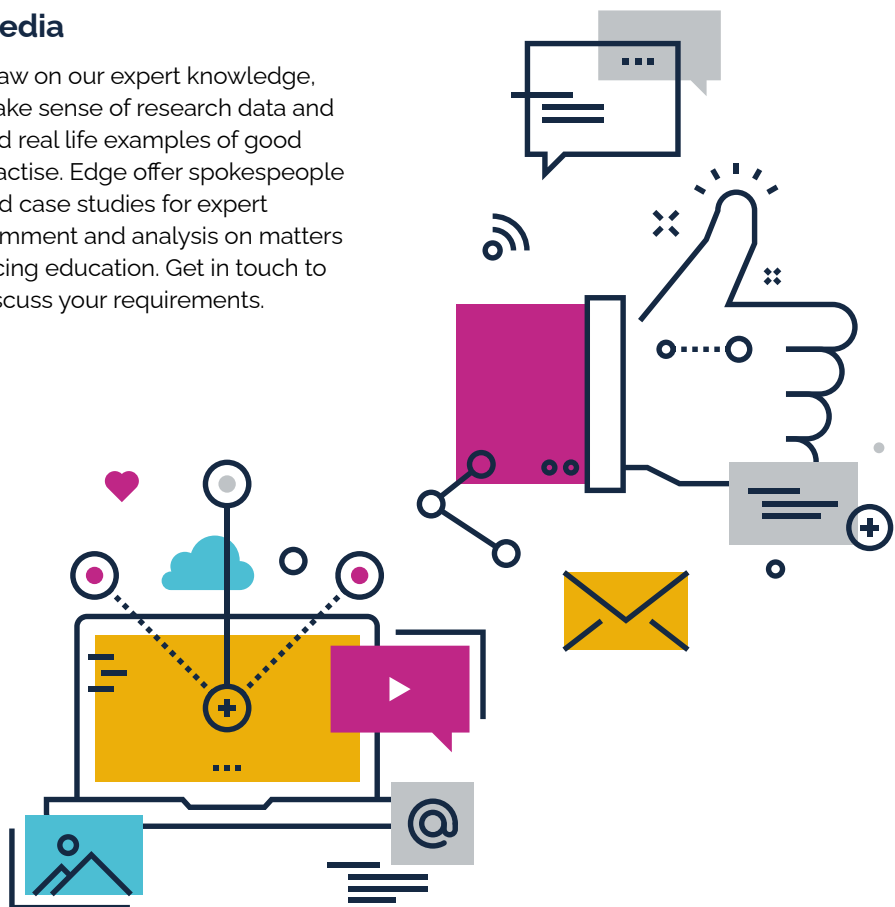
Blog

Edge invites blogs offering a variety of perspectives on the issues affecting educators and the sector. Get in touch if you would like us to consider an article.

Visit our [blog](#).

Media

Draw on our expert knowledge, make sense of research data and find real life examples of good practise. Edge offer spokespeople and case studies for expert comment and analysis on matters facing education. Get in touch to discuss your requirements.



Newsletter

Each month Edge circulate a news update to our database of over 6,000 subscribers.

Education Comms network

Our education communications network is a mutually supportive network of senior comms leaders working across education. We bring people together who have a diverse range of skills, knowledge, and expertise, to stimulate conversation, garner support, and take part in joint communications to help shape the future of education policy.

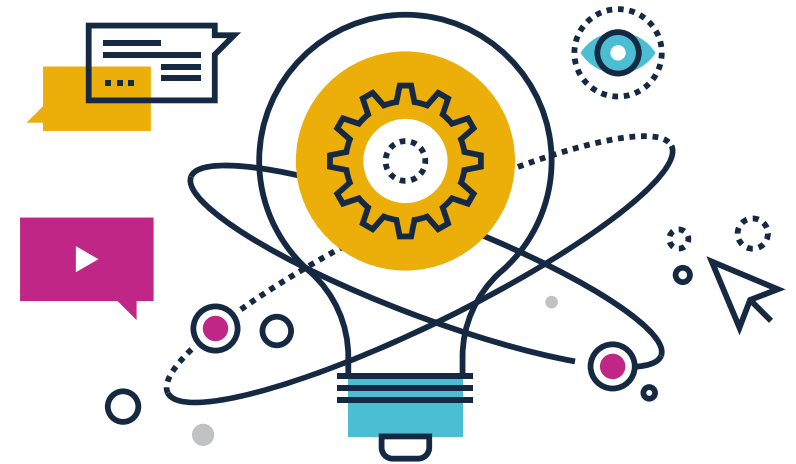
Practice

Incubating Innovation

Over the last 20 years, Edge has incubated and developed a host of successful models and practices that help to make education more relevant – from University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools to the Edge Hotel School at the University of Essex, which offers real world training in hospitality management in a working 4* hotel. We helped found Rethinking Assessment to try different approaches to assessing young people's skills and talents and Deeper Learning UK to bring together a wide range of innovative schools, colleges and partners.

Training and Support

Our team has extensive experience of supporting schools and colleges to understand, trial and adopt the latest engaging pedagogies that help to bring education to life – from engaging inter-disciplinary projects that connect to real life issues, to teacher externships that give staff the opportunity to spend time in industry and use that experience to enhance their teaching. Our Practice Dashboard provides a wide range of free resources, videos and support to colleagues working on the front line.



Deeper Learning UK

Deeper Learning describes a variety of practices that reflect a broader purpose for the education system. A system oriented to ensuring each young person is empowered to flourish and be the best version of themselves - an education of the head, heart and hand.

Our Deeper Learning UK network brings together more than 40 organisations including schools, colleges, Multi Academy Trusts, Universities, College Groups and voluntary sector organisations to build and share these practices in a rigorous way that helps make education more relevant for young people. This group can act as a sounding board, provide advice and support, pilot and develop interventions.

This is supported by our Deeper Learning International network, which features some of the world's leading models where we have built up strong relationships so that we can learn from and build on their practice.

For more details about our practice work [click here](#).



Come join us!

For regular updates, sign up to join the [Edge Community](#)

Come and be inspired at one of our regular [events](#)

Meet your tribe at our [research, policy and communication networks](#)

Sign-up for [training](#) with our Edge Future Learning team

Engage in our discussions and share our work on social media





Visit www.edge.co.uk to find out more.

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