



# FABIAN EDUCATION

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## Fabian Education Policy Group Newsletter

### Edition 1. Summer 2022

#### **In this newsletter:**

- 1. Plans for 2022/23**
- 2. Writing opportunities**
- 3. We need your ideas!**
- 4. What's new on our social media pages.**
- 5. What's new at the website and our blog.**

**6. Dates for your diary**, including news of a guest speaker at our September online meeting.

Welcome to all colleagues old and new to the Summer 2022 Fabian Education Policy Group newsletter. This edition gathers together news and notices that you may find useful. It also contains details of some exciting opportunities to share your ideas- whether it's writing a short essay, a blog piece, or contributing ideas and comments, we want to hear from you.

We also outline our plans for 2022/23 as we look forward to another productive year.

With thanks for your continued interest, support and participation from the FEPG organising committee.

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## 1. Plans for 2022/23.

Our main aims are to give members opportunities to come together, share ideas and discuss education policy; to promote members' ideas to a wider audience; and to see our policy ideas taken up by policymakers and put into action.

**Our regular monthly Zoom meetings will continue.** Meetings will continue to feature guest speakers from time to time.

**We are currently planning four meetings at the House Of Commons during 2022/23.** Building on the work of some of our existing working groups, the sessions will focus on the following issues:

1. Early Years
2. The overall aims and values informing and underpinning our education system
3. Inclusion
4. The use of education technology

These events take a lot of hard work to plan, so if you are interested in helping and can lend a hand then please get in touch.

**Work on the blogs will continue and there is currently a proposal to produce a publication (see below).**

**We will continue to post on social media** to spread the word about the FEPG and our activities, and to promote members' writing to a wider audience.

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## 2. Writing Opportunities.

Summer's a period of the year when you may have a little more thinking time. So if inspiration strikes and you feel like getting your ideas down in writing, then we'd love to hear from you. There are plenty of ways to see your work published through the FEPG.

### **Blogs.**

We are always on the lookout for new blogs from members. If there is an issue you would like to write about then please get in touch. Our blog pieces are usually under 1000 words. For inspiration take a look at our blog site here:

<https://fabians4education.edublogs.org>

### **Six Searching Questions.**

If you have never written for us before, and would like to get started, we have a feature at our blog site called 'Six Searching Questions.' This is a short-form Q+A style blog, and it would be great to get lots of members contributing to this. Take a look here, and if you fancy tackling the questions get in touch.

We're not looking for lengthy essays or journals here- just short and concise answers to the questions, the kind of thing you can complete in ten or fifteen minutes:

<https://fabians4education.edublogs.org/2022/01/23/a-new-series-of-posts-six-searching-questions-answered-by-professor-marilyn-leask/>

### **Longer essays (aka the 'Journal').**

If you would prefer to stretch out a little, we publish longer pieces (more than 1000 words) under the 'Journal' tab at our website. Take a look here:

<https://www.fabianeducation.com/journal>

We haven't had any journal submissions for a while, so if you have some spare time over the Summer and would like to get some ideas down, now is the time...

## **'Book' Proposal.**

Are you interested in contributing to a longer FEPG publication?

Our colleague and FEPG member Tony Breslin is leading on this project for us, and has prepared a series of slides which you can see in the google doc below.

We're currently calling it a 'book' because it might end up as a text published in the time-honoured way, but then again it might become something else- such as an electronic publication.

Tony's provided us here with some more thoughts on the project and a possible outline. Please take a look, and if you feel like you have an idea that could be turned into an essay in this collection then please let us know. Co-authorship is a real possibility, so if you are pressed for time, or haven't published before, or would just prefer the idea of working alongside someone else, we can actively help to put you in touch with other members of our network.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cJATcxfTwN7L2gzh-IG7LPvDpcdPKWw0/view>

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## **3. We need your ideas!**

Following a successful meeting in June, between Bridget Philipson (Shadow Secretary of State for Education) and members of the FEPG committee, we have a new document that we would like all members to help us prepare.

It's called **'Labour's First Day and First White Paper'** and it can be accessed here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/102JJx5UTkkU6iL\\_VZBi5Lw0vx-E\\_kNcLF01mJ35gAgA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/102JJx5UTkkU6iL_VZBi5Lw0vx-E_kNcLF01mJ35gAgA/edit)

The idea is to populate this document with ideas which can be fed through to Bridget and her team, in the hope that as many of them as possible could be put into action.

So what do you think a Labour government should do when it is in power? Take a look at the document, and if you feel inspired make a suggestion.

DON'T FORGET previous FEPG documents that we have prepared prior to this one. The 'First Day and White Paper' document also contains links to our previous work. They contain a wealth of ideas, so please take a look at these and use them for inspiration.

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#### 4. What's new on our social media pages.

Twitter: Follow us @EduFabians. We're adding new followers all the time. Don't forget to retweet our posts to spread the word about us.

Facebook: A reminder that we recently launched a FEPG members' Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, search 'Fabian Education Policy Group' and ask to join.

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#### 5. What's new at the website and the blogsite.

Our website [www.fabianeducation.com](http://www.fabianeducation.com) remains the go-to source of information for all things relating to the FEPG. If you haven't already done so, **please sign up for the 'Members' Area' of the site**, where you will find documents like minutes of previous meetings. The website also contains longer pieces of writing under the 'Journal' tab, and also links to our FEPG blogsite.

Recent publications at the blog site (<https://fabians4education.edublogs.org>) include pieces by colleagues on the following topics:

Deb Outwaite on the teaching profession

Reflections from one of our working groups on the way the school system is structured

Max Fishel on SEND and the recent Green Paper

Chris Harris on the 'levelling up' agenda and how it might apply to education

Mel Ainscow on inclusion

and some moving personal reflections from our colleague, Craig Macartney.

Don't forget to look at older posts too in the archive.

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## **6. Dates for your diary.**

Looking ahead to the Autumn term 2023, we have monthly meetings on the following dates:

Monday, September 26th

Monday, October 31st

Monday, November 28th.

These will be via Zoom as usual. Check emails nearer each date for confirmation of start times.

**We will be joined at September's meeting by a guest speaker representing SQUARE PEG**, a community interest company set up as a social enterprise in April 2019, to effect change for children who struggle to attend school and their families. It promises to be a very insightful evening, given that attendance remains a big topic in the education world at the moment. As ever, though, the situation is far more complex than it is often painted. Take a look at Square Peg's website to find out more in advance: <https://www.teamsquarepeg.org>

Also look out for emails about our **House of Commons meetings** during 2022-23, as and when details of individual events are finalised.