

Small Schools **MANIFESTO**



Small schools are **ASSETS, CENTRES FOR INNOVATION** *in EDUCATION and COMMUNITIES and TREASURIES for their LOCALITIES.*

Small schools are

ideal places for research, innovation and development; in teaching and learning, curriculum development, leadership and for developing quality practice in education through collaboration and partnership.

This manifesto calls for:

- ✓ Acknowledgement of and support for small schools as centres for research, innovation and development in teaching and learning and in their communities and localities.
- ✓ The recognition and celebration of and support for collaborative practices amongst schools; collaboration by choice, not through force or coercion.



Small schools are

connected with, central to and assets for communities through their influential relationships with pupils, parents and extended families and as such provide opportunities for adult learning, developments in technology and sustainability.

This manifesto calls for:

- ✓ The recognition of the importance of schools to the communities and places they serve and the importance of communities to schools: Schools do not exist in isolation, this fact calls for acknowledgement of situated contextual factors which interact with the school and its locality such as housing, employment and provisions of services.
- ✓ Acknowledgement and celebration of and support for a commitment to building a wide range of relationships in education settings as an integral part of the UK's Levelling Up agenda.

Small schools must **be funded fairly.**

This manifesto calls for:

- ✓ a fair funding system for all schools. It calls particularly for a system that acknowledges and funds small schools and other schools that challenge standard financial efficiency models.



Contacts: Dr Cath Gristy, Plymouth Institute of Education, University of Plymouth • cath.gristy@plymouth.ac.uk
Neil Short, National Association of Small Schools • uep@btinternet.com

This document was published in April 2022



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH