



WEA

Workers' Educational Association

An insight into the WEA.....

WEA Approach to Education and Learning

- **Founded in 1903, UK's largest voluntary sector provider of adult education, delivering around 10,000 part-time courses for over 70,000 people each year in England and Scotland**
- **Through education, the WEA brings teaching and people together to inspire communities and help adults make better lives for themselves and their families**
- **Our common values: democratic, equal, inclusive, accessible and open are at the heart of everything we do!**
- **Committed to inclusive learning, inclusive community in which diversity is valued**
- **WEA personnel: volunteers, tutors, education support advisers, education coordinators, area education managers, senior education managers, regional education manager, business development managers, administration and operational staff , human resource management team**
- **National Contract with Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)**

WEA Provision

- Offer wide range of courses: art, music, history and archaeology, family history, history of art, local history, modern history, ancient history, political history, magna carta, film and media, gardening, literature and reading groups, science for parents in partnership with local schools and Thackray Medical Museum, community interpreters, holistic therapy, day schools, maths and English, ESOL, practical parent helpers, skills for volunteers, confidence building, healthy living and cooking, poetry, languages including Spanish, French, Italian, German, Latin, creative writing, fitness and exercise, yoga, healthy living: reiki for self development, meditation and mindfulness, aromatherapy, photography and digital photography, parenting and child development, helping in schools, deaf literacy and maths, art and crafts
- 19 years or over
- Course Fees £3.30 per hour, enrol online www.wea.org.uk/courses
- Entitled to free tuition if in receipt of benefits

WEA's Mission is to:

- **Raise educational aspirations**
- **Bring great teaching and learning to local communities**
- **Ensure there is always an opportunity for adults to return to learn**
- **Develop educational opportunities for the most disadvantaged**
- **Encourage students to exercise their voice & influence by becoming members of the association / active citizens / more active in their local communities**

Volunteering with the WEA

- **WEA Branches and Volunteers play an important part in running the WEA**
- **They have decision making powers and are important part of the democratic process**
- **A membership organisation which encourages our students to join to help us build a strong voice for adult learning**
- **Makes us distinctive and different from other learning providers**

Volunteering Roles

- **Class Secretary**: Volunteering alongside the tutor to help with smooth running of the class and making sure students are informed about the WEA and feel able to have a voice

- **Learning Volunteer**: Volunteering alongside the tutor to help engage and encourage students in their studies

- **Community Outreach Volunteer**: Volunteering alongside the staff team to help recruit new students to the WEA by championing the benefits of adult education and providing information about local WEA courses

- **Publicity Volunteer**: Volunteering within a local team to help recruit new students onto WEA courses by creation and distribution of publicity materials

- **Branch Committee Member**: To help support the local course organiser in planning and promoting WEA courses.
- **Branch Chair**: To help support the local course organiser in overseeing the planning and co-ordination of WEA courses by chairing the branch committee, disseminating information, and facilitating communication with students
- **Branch Secretary**: To help support the local course organiser in planning and promoting WEA courses. The secretary's tasks are mainly concerned with communication with branch committee, tutors and students.
- **Branch Treasurer**: To help support the local course organiser by keeping track of the WEA branch finances within a framework of WEA financial management policies

Skills for Volunteers

- **An inspirational course which will help adults to develop their skills to be confident and effective volunteers**
- **Course content includes exploring the role of the volunteer, developing good interpersonal skills and understanding issues of equality and diversity**
- **An insight into working in partnership with socially and economically disadvantaged communities**

Importance of WEA's Four Educational Themes

- **Culture**
- **Health & Wellbeing**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Employability**

- **Each theme provides a context**

- **Each WEA course will use one theme as its primary context**

Critical Thinking!

- **Our themes are designed to enhance the experience of students studying with the WEA**
- **Our aim is to make sure every student has the opportunity to maximise the learning opportunities provided by their course**
- **All WEA provision encourages students to develop critical thinking skills**
- **Students are encouraged to become involved in relevant activities outside the classroom that embed their learning**

- **Each course subject is explored in line with learning outcomes and developed in the context of the WEA themes**

- **Students are encouraged to:**
 - actively research , debate and question aspects of the subject matter
 - lead discussions and presentations of their ideas and findings
 - draw on their study to explore the wider contexts
 - apply their learning individually and as a class through activities in their communities
 - put into practice what they have learned outside the classroom
 - become WEA members or active citizens in their own right!

Any Questions.....?

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A better world – equal, democratic and just; through adult education the WEA challenges and inspires individuals, communities and society.