

## Strategic Priority (5) – Education

### Aim:

- To develop a cohesive and inspirational Adventist education provision, utilising best practice, inclusion & innovation, driving attendance.

### Objectives:

- Explore the value proposition of Adventist education in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.
- Utilise current best practice and innovation in our educational institutions.
- Cultivate a growth mentality that drives excellence and raises educational standards and attainment in all our educational institutions.



## Lessons learned?

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,  
*President of the British Union Conference*

### True education

'True education... is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers' (Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 1).

### The BUC Constitution

The running of educational institutions is ingrained in Article 3 of the BUC Constitution.

### Historical challenges

The John Loughborough School opened in April 1980 as an independent school. In 1998 it was granted voluntary-aided status by the Government, but on 31 August 2013 it was closed amid much turbulence. On 28 November 1990 the Theodore McCleary Primary School was opened in South London. It closed on 31 August 2006. Both schools were heavily supported by Adventists in London, who sacrificed to offer their children a Christian education. The closure of these two Adventist schools raises the question: what lessons have we learnt from their demise? What data did we harvest to ensure that such situations do not recur?

### Current challenges

While most of our schools are rated as 'Good' by Ofsted, some struggle to attain these standards. In addition to challenges regarding the accessibility of our schools, financial constraints, and the need for Adventist teachers; falling student numbers and a lack of confidence in our educational institutions are just some of the hurdles that we face. Operating schools across the UK in 2023 demands creativity and innovation. **The methods of yesteryear are no longer valid in an era when AI can write your essays.** We need our teaching, learning, governance, safeguarding, and leadership to be agile enough to meet the educational challenges of the twenty-first century



### BUC education data

The BUC has already set up an Education Commission to address the educational challenges within our territory. There is also a survey that members can complete to provide us with additional data. *If you haven't done so already, please help us by scanning the QR code and completing it or visiting: <https://adventist.uk/departments/education/future-of-adventist-education-in-the-uk/>.*

### Questions to ponder.

- How can we be true to our constitution and yet have a sustainable financial model of support for our schools and institutions?
- Is it time for us to develop a new system of supporting our education system to make it more evangelistic?
- Should all our students benefit from the financial provisions that we make for education, or is it only for the children in our schools?
- Should we consider making our schools self-governing?
- Is it time to consider a multi-academy approach?
- How do we best serve the needs of Adventist parents who home-school their children?
- How can we support parents whose children are unable to access mainstream education?

Let us take time to reflect on the past and support our children and young people in their educational journey today. Let's learn lessons from the past and present, and create educational opportunities for the future.