



**THE NATIONAL  
EDUCATION SERVICE  
CHARTER**



Education is a public good and all providers within the National Education Service shall be bound by the principles of this charter:

1. Education is a human right and all citizens have the right to learn. **The National Education Service shall provide education that is free at the point of use, available universally and throughout life.**
2. Education should empower individuals to become critical, active and engaged members of society. **The National Education Service aims to ensure learners receive a holistic and rounded education, where they gain the knowledge, skills, qualities, values, creativity, and confidence needed to create and participate in a just society.**
3. **Every child and adult matters, so the National Education Service is committed to tackling the structural, cultural and individual barriers which cause and perpetuate inequality.** It will work alongside the health and social care, sustainability, housing and industrial policies set by a democratically elected government to create a strong and inclusive economy, enhance social cohesion and achieve greater equality.
4. **Every child and adult can learn and achieve, so the National Education Service will be inclusive and equitable.** All individuals will be given appropriate support to access and succeed in education, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, religion, class, sexual orientation or any other social or personal characteristics.
5. Learners with special educational needs and disabilities face additional barriers in accessing education throughout life. **The National Education Service will give due consideration, resource and support to these learners to ensure that high quality education is accessible to all.**
6. As education is a public good, ensuring that all citizens receive a high quality education is a collective endeavour. **The National Education Service will promote collaboration and cooperation between learners, the education workforce, parents and carers, trade unions, governing bodies, civic society, and employers.** It will be structured to encourage and enhance cooperation amongst all parts of the education system and across different boundaries and sectors.

7. **Staff, learners, parents and carers, local communities and the public will be collectively responsible for the National Education Service and the education institutions within it.** They will be empowered, via appropriate democratic means, to influence change where it is needed and ensure that the education system meets their needs. The appropriate democratic authority will set, monitor and allocate resources, ensuring that they meet the rights, roles, and responsibilities of individuals and institutions.
  
8. All types of knowledge, skills and learning deserve respect. **The National Education Service will support and provide flexible formal and non-formal learning, from cradle to grave.** All forms of learning within and outside of educational institutions will be treated with equal respect.
  
9. **The National Education Service aspires to the highest standards of excellence for staff.** All staff will be valued as high-skilled professionals, with appropriate accountability balanced against giving them genuine freedom of judgement, innovation, and creativity.
  
10. **The National Education Service values the personal development and health of the individual, so it will have the utmost regard for the wellbeing of learners and staff.** Its policies and practices will support the emotional, social and physical wellbeing of learners and staff.