

The BIG Veganism in Education Conference

Saturday 1st October 2022

9am – 4.30pm

Call for presentations

The Vegan Society cordially invites speakers to the first ever vegan-inclusive education conference.

Context

Veganism is a philosophy and way of living which seeks to exclude—as far as is possible and practicable—all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing or any other purpose; and by extension, promotes the development and use of animal-free alternatives for the benefit of animals, humans and the environment. In dietary terms it denotes the practice of dispensing with all products derived wholly or partly from animals.¹

The vegan philosophy is not routinely taught in schools and many educational resources and activities perpetuate prejudice against other animals. We know from experience that vegan parents and pupils struggle to have their educational needs met.

Successful inclusive education requires school transformation and systems change. One key element is understanding existing structural, educational, and cultural challenges. Successful inclusion also requires the provision of inclusive education training, sustained support, and resources for all teachers and school leaders.²

International and European human rights provisions mandate respect for the right of parents to education and teaching that aligns with their own religious, moral, and philosophical convictions.

In the UK, veganism attracts protection under human rights law and ethical veganism is a protected characteristic for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010.

In addition, the Public Sector Equality Duty requires schools to eliminate discrimination, harassment **and** victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who don't and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Our conference asks:

What are the existing challenges to successful vegan-inclusive education?

¹ The Vegan Society. 'Definition of Veganism'. <https://www.vegansociety.com/go-vegan/definition-veganism>

² Dr Matthew J. Schuelka (2018). 'Implementing inclusive education'
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c6eb77340f0b647b214c599/374_Implementing_Inclusive_Education.pdf

What are the experiences of vegan educators, pupils and their parents/Guardians?

What is the value of existing rights, equality and inclusion measures and principles for vegan-inclusive education?

Call for Presentations

The Vegan Society invites presentations from across the education sector on theory and practice, including, but not limited to:

- Vegan-inclusive education – what does it mean?
- Vegan-inclusive education and ethical professional practice/DfE Teachers' Standards?
- Topics on teaching compassion:
 - entrenched prejudice against nonhuman animals
 - reasonable adjustments
 - age-appropriate resources
 - the problem of traditional resources
 - tensions in class
 - extracurricular activities/trips
- The non-vegan requirements of awarding bodies.
- A parental right to vegan education – what the law says.
- Prohibition of discrimination under the Equality Act 2010.
- The application of the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- Vegan-inclusive practice and formal equality advice for schools³ – is it fit for purpose?
- Positive developments? Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE).
- Vegan educators' experiences:
 - teacher training
 - school curriculum
 - teaching and learning
 - parental input
 - unsupportive SLT
- Safeguarding and the Prevent Duty: talking about animal rights and veganism and other animals in and out of school.
- The provision of vegan food:
 - external catering contracts
 - budget
 - quality and quantity
- The provision of plant-based milk alternatives for younger pupils.

Submission of abstracts

Abstracts of around 200 words should be sent to education@vegansociety.com

³https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf

Presentation slots will be 25 minutes in total (presentation 20 minutes plus 5 minutes for questions)

The deadline for abstracts is 30th June 2022
Successful speakers will be notified by 30th July 2022

Location

Partnership for Learning Charity: [Training Conference Centre](#)

South Road
Speke
Liverpool
L24 9PZ

(Free parking)

[Map](#)

Schedule

TBC

Lunch

Homemade Mixed Hummus & Flat Bread/Crudité (n)
Trio of Salads
(Mixed Leaf Feta Salad, Baby Buttered Potatoes, Tabbouleh)
Plant Based Chilli & Rice
Falafel Wraps with Roasted Veg (n)
Sweet Potato Wedges or Chips
Vegan Sausage Rolls
Fruit Bowl
Selection of Vegan Cakes (n)
Tea, Coffee & Orange Juice

(Allergens: 'n' = nuts. Please let us know if you have any specific requirements)

Contact

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