

# The Learning Revolution Pledge Guide

Your guide to bringing  
the Pledge to life

THE LEARNING  
REVOLUTION



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**By taking The Learning Revolution Pledge, your organisation has made seven commitments to support informal adult learning.**

**By signing up, you're part of a nationwide movement for informal adult learning.**

**[Thank you]**



# What now?



**Now you've pledged to join The Learning Revolution it's time to make your Pledge commitment a reality. If you're already doing something, fantastic! We want to hear about it.**



If you're not, then this pack is designed to help you. You'll find tips on how you can bring more people into learning and support the informal learning movement.

We'll explain what your organisation has pledged to do and how you can do it.

## **So read on!**

We hope you find this pack useful and that it helps your organisation play a part in the wider movement.

## **A quick reminder about The Learning Revolution**

The Learning Revolution is about getting more adults to learn for learning's sake.

There is a quiet learning revolution going on across the UK. People are learning in colleges, adult education centres, community organisations, faith spaces, work places, libraries, galleries, clubs, pubs, online communities and more.

The Learning Revolution can really benefit your organisation, your people and your community.

This is a great opportunity to get new projects off the ground and make The Learning Revolution vision a reality – so that informal learning grows and enriches the lives of adults for years to come.

# [The Pledge]



**So, you've signed up to the seven commitments of The Learning Revolution Pledge, but what do they mean in practice? Here are some practical steps your organisation can take to bring the Pledge to life.**

## Step 1

**Support the core principles of informal learning and encourage others to sign up**

By signing up to the Pledge you have already showed your support. But why not take it further by asking other organisations to sign up? Why not promote it via your contact lists and local media or community websites?

## Step 2

**Advocate wider participation, especially for those who have benefited least from learning**

Everyone should have access to learning opportunities. Why not have a notice board for staff in your organisation? Or a place on your organisation's website or intranet for telling people about events, classes, lectures, clubs, support groups etc? Make sure that you have senior managers on board and that everyone in your organisation feels included.

## Step 3

**Find flexible ways of opening up spaces for learning**

One important part of the Pledge is that you and your organisation think about how you can open up an occasional space for learning, particularly to help the people who are doing it for themselves in clubs, societies, support groups etc. It could be any kind of space - an office for an evening group, a gardening club at a local allotment or a library meeting room for a reading group. Think creatively about how your organisation could occasionally share a space and ask colleagues for their ideas.

## Step 4

**Encourage and support learning organised by people for themselves**

Lots of informal learning is subsidised by Government and happens in colleges, adult education centres, libraries, museums, sports clubs etc. But it doesn't end there. Encourage people to organise learning events and set up clubs, societies and support groups. Often these activities spark an interest that leads to more structured learning. Encourage people to share their skills and interests.

## Step 5

**Embrace new ways of learning, including the use of technology and broadcasting**

Many workplaces have great access to computers and other technologies that support learning. Encourage people to use IT for learning outside work and let them know about all the information on The School of Everything website (more on this later) that will help them find classes, clubs and learning events close to home or work.



## Step 6

**Find and work with new partners to increase learning opportunities**

Learning is all about discovering new things. With thousands of pledging organisations, there are bound to be some near you or some that share your interests. You can find out about them by visiting the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills site at [www.bis.gov.uk](http://www.bis.gov.uk)

Working with different partners can be very rewarding. If you have an intranet or internet page for The Learning Revolution then why not make links with other organisations close to where you are.

## Step 7

**Celebrate successes**

The Learning Revolution is a movement of organisations committed to learning. We need your stories to inspire others. We'll put them in our Revolutions newsletter and we may use them as part of our Learning Revolution media campaign.



# Opening up spaces



**Whether it's a museum, a library, an office or a staff canteen, opening up learning spaces can make a real difference to people's lives. Thousands of organisations have pledged spaces already. Great news but we need more!**

Think about how your organisation can share a space. It could be available occasionally or regularly. It can be available during, or in addition to, your regular opening hours.

The space must be available for use by a group or groups from outside your organisation. Once you've opened up a space, make sure people use it!



# Opening up spaces: Q&A

## **Q: What counts as a self-organised group?**

A: A group of people not funded directly by the public purse, who get together to form a learning group/society/club. Examples of self organised groups: a gardening group, community choir, reading group, bereavement support group, knitting circles and lots more...

## **Q: What kind of spaces can be included?**

A: Any kind of space where people can learn - from a cosy room to an allotment, IT suite, hall, workplace, library meeting room, museum resource centre, archive space, playground, theatre, pub, post office, football ground, fire station, religious meeting place - in short, the possibilities are endless.

## **Q: How often does the space have to be available? And to whom?**

A: The space can be available occasionally or regularly - once a month, three evenings a week, every morning or whatever suits your organisation. It can be available during, or in addition to, your regular opening hours. The space must be available for use by a group or groups from outside your organisation. Look out for guidance on the Ning website. [thelearningrevolution.ning.com](http://thelearningrevolution.ning.com)

## **Q: How can we register our space?**

A: First make sure your organisation is happy to have a space registered on a public-facing website and that relevant colleagues have enough information to respond to enquiries. Then go to The School of Everything website at [www.schoolofeverything.com](http://www.schoolofeverything.com) and insert the information about your space/s.

## **Q: What are the minimum details we need to provide?**

- A:
- The address of your space/s, including postcode/s, directions for walking and for public transport
  - The contact details for enquiries about the space/s
  - The size and type of space/s you are willing to open
  - Accessibility details, e.g. stairs, lift, disabled loo etc.

## **Q: Can we add other details?**

A: Yes, give as much detail as possible. The additional fields will let you tell groups more about your space, e.g. a photo, its availability at specific times of the week, local transport, crèche facilities, coffee bar, computer access etc. We will link this information to Google maps.

## **Q: What counts as a space towards the target?**

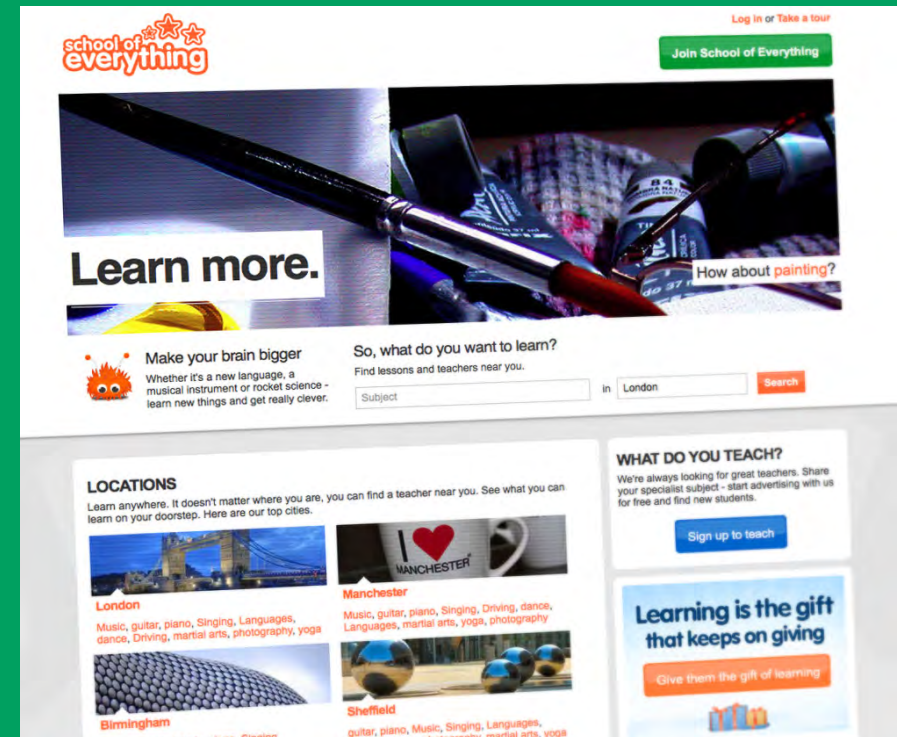
A: Every physical space counts, so occasional use of a small room for five people and once-a-week use of a rehearsal space counts as two spaces towards the target of 7,000.

## **Q: Can we charge for the space?**

A: Yes, if the charge is very reasonable. But The Learning Revolution is all about sharing facilities. We want as many spaces as possible to be free, particularly if they're already funded by taxpayers. Even a room that you normally charge for could be made available free on an occasional basis.

# School of Everything

The School of Everything website is the online portal for The Learning Revolution. It's a one stop site for all things informal learning-related in your area.



The School of Everything website will allow you to:

- find free or low-cost venues to run classes or meet up with other people to learn things
- upload and find more resources, such as videos, documents and images, related to subjects you're interested in
- find courses, events and groups near you as well as individual lessons and teachers for particular subjects
- embed School of Everything search widgets on your internet and intranet sites
- upload your own learning opportunities, available spaces and events, individually or in bulk

# Become a Pledge Ambassador

Do you want to go even further to prove your commitment to learning? Then become a Pledge Ambassador.



Ambassadors will work inside, and in many cases outside, their organisations to champion The Learning Revolution Pledge and help open up spaces for self organised learning.

Ambassadors may be:

- teachers or managers in adult education
- community learning champions
- Transformation Fund project staff
- employees in sports, arts, health and many other umbrella bodies
- staff in third sector organisations or faith groups
- representatives of organisations like the University of the Third Age, Voluntary Arts Network or Cafe Scientifique

In short anyone who feels a passion for adult learning.

Being a Pledge Ambassador doesn't just mean that you'll make a real difference to people's lives and contribute to community wellbeing. It will also be a positive addition to your CV and enhance your organisation's reputation.

We invite you or a colleague to register as your organisation's Pledge Ambassador. Please send an email with your contact details to [revolutions@bis.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:revolutions@bis.gsi.gov.uk)

Why not go to the Ning site where we have created a dedicated space for Pledge Ambassadors to share their experiences, post videos/pictures and ask other users for ideas and views.

# Resources



We've come up with some great resources to help you continue to bring your pledge to life.

## **bis.gov.uk**

– the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. It gives the full policy background on The Learning Revolution as well as showing you the organisations that have signed up to The Learning Revolution Pledge around the country.

## **thelearningrevolution.ning.com**

– the user-generated Learning Revolution community. This is the place to hear from other informal adult learning activists and tell them all about what you do too. You can upload text, video and images as well as start and join conversations to show The Learning Revolution in action.

## **National learning campaigns**

Why not take a look at some national campaigns to get people involved in learning.

Here are a few ideas...

Adult Learners' Week – 15-21 May  
This is a great way to recognise and celebrate learners  
[www.alw.org.uk](http://www.alw.org.uk)

Family Learning Week –  
31 May - 6 June  
[www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk](http://www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk)

Learning at Work Day – 20 May  
[www.learningatworkday.com](http://www.learningatworkday.com)

There are lots of other national campaigns that all provide a great opportunity for you to promote informal adult learning.

# The future of learning is yours!

We'd love to hear about what you've been up to - in your adult education class, workplace or community.

Send feedback - pictures, videos, case studies, reviews to the Ning site - to show how this movement is gathering pace around the country. We may use it in the Revolutions newsletter and as part of our Learning Revolution media campaign.

In return you'll get special access to resources that you can use to show that you are playing an active part in The Learning Revolution.



We hope this pack helps you on your way to exciting and varied learning opportunities within your organisation as well as reaching out to others outside your organisation and into your local community.