

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be "The Philosophy in Schools Association of New South Wales"

2. DEFINITIONS

In what follows, 'Association' shall mean "The Philosophy in Schools Association of New South Wales"

'Member' shall mean a financial member of the Association,

'Executive' shall mean the Executive Committee of the Association.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Association' aims are to develop and promote philosophy in schools, to inspire and encourage individuals to practise and acquire independent skills in reasoning, and in thinking reflexively, critically, and creatively; and to provide individuals with intellectual motivation and self-esteem, and make them effective thinkers with sound judgement.

The Association's objectives are --

- (a) To promote communities of enquiry or other appropriate methods in school classes to analyse and discuss philosophical issues and concepts;
- (b) To promote and explain philosophy in schools to schools' executives, teachers, parents, and students and to identify places for philosophy within schools' curricula;
- (c) To provide training and continuing support for teachers;
- (d) To develop suitable resources for teachers;
- (e) To establish a network of communication among all persons involved in philosophy in schools;
- (f) To maintain, in appropriate categories, lists of teachers of philosophy in schools, philosophers and other interested persons;
- (g) To provide forums for discussion;
- (h) To seek support and approval for philosophy in schools from NESAs, the NSW Department of Education, the Association of Independent Schools NSW, and governing bodies of private schools.
- (i) To encourage research in the theory and practice of philosophy in schools;

4. POWERS

The Association may, for the purpose of carrying out any or all of its aims, by resolution of a general meeting seek incorporation, hold and dispose of real or personal property, enter into contracts, receive and make gifts, and as trustee, be a beneficiary, and perform all such acts in the law as a required or are incidental to such legal functions. The Association may levy an appropriate membership fee.

5. INCOME AND PROPERTY

The income and property of the Association shall be applied to the promotion of the aims and objectives stated in clause 3., and no portion thereof shall be transferred by way of profit to any individual member of the Association. If, upon the dissolution of the Association, there remain any assets after the satisfaction of its debts, these shall be allocated as determined by the meeting, held as per Clause 14.

6. PATRONS

At any Annual General Meeting such Patron or Patrons as are considered appropriate may be elected.

7. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association shall include any person or organisation that applies to the Secretary and is approved by the Executive for membership, and pays the required annual fee. Application is open to any person who or organisation which supports the aims of the Association.

8. FINANCE

Accounts operated by the Association shall --

- (a) Adopt a financial year which ends on 30 June;
- (b) Be operated by signature of any two of the President, Treasurer, Secretary or any other(s) who may be deemed appropriate by the Executive;
- (c) Be audited annually.

The income and the property of the Association shall be solely towards the promotion of the aims of the Association and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise howsoever by way of profit to members or relatives of members of the Association, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of the remuneration to any officer or servant of the Association for any service actually rendered to the Association or reasonable and proper rental for premises let by any member to the Association.

9. MANAGEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION

- (a) The affairs of the Association shall be run by an Executive which will consist of at least five members of the Association (or, in the case of organisations, their nominees), at least two of which persons shall have tertiary qualifications in Philosophy and at least two of whom are registered teachers.
- (b) The Association will elect from within its members (including nominees of member organisations) an Executive consisting of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
- (c) The Executive shall determine its own business procedures.

- (d) The Executive shall assume office immediately upon its election at the Annual General Meeting and shall retire upon election of its successor at the next Annual General Meeting.
- (e) Should an office become vacant during the course of the year, or be unfilled at the Annual General Meeting, the Executive may, at its discretion, appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next General Meeting of the Association.
- (f) Where consensus cannot be reached at an Executive meeting, decisions will be made by a majority vote of all members present.
- (g) The Chair of the meeting will have an ordinary vote and in the event of a tie, a casting vote.
- (h) A quorum of the Executive shall be 3 members.
- (i) The Executive shall, at its discretion, appoint an Advisory Board
- (j) The Executive shall consult with members of its Advisory Board as they deem fit.

10. ELECTION

- (a) The Secretary is to call for nomination for members of the Executive prior to the Annual General Meeting. Nominations will be accepted up until the time of the election. If only one nomination has been received for each position, then those nominated will be declared elected at the meeting.
- (b) In the event of their being more nominations than offices or positions available, an election shall be held and appointments shall be made by secret ballot of those present at the meeting.
- (c) The Annual General Meeting will elect a returning officer for the elections held at the Annual General Meeting.

11. GENERAL MEETING

- (a) General Meetings of the Association shall be called by the Secretary at the instigation of the Chair as often as the business of the Association may require, or at the written request of $\frac{1}{5}$ of the members of the Association.
- (b) The Secretary will ensure that notice of meetings is posted to Members at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting.
- (c) The Annual General Meeting will be held no later than the end of July in each year. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include the following:
 - (i) A report by the Executive on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year.
 - (ii) An audited statement of accounts, presented by the Treasurer.
 - (iii) Election of the Executive for the ensuing year.
 - (iv) Election of an Honorary Auditor.
- (d) A quorum for General Meetings of the Association shall consist of 8 members.
- (e) The General Meeting is the final decision making body of the Association, and its decisions override the decisions made by the Executive except for Executive decisions made under clause 9(e).

12. DUTIES OF OFFICE BEARERS

The President shall be responsible for the following:

- Calling meetings of the Association, through the Secretary, as often as the business of the Association may require, or as outlined in Clause 11(a).
- Acting as Chair at meetings, or appointing a proxy to so act.
- Acting as spokesperson for the Association, or approving a proxy.
- Conducting the correspondence of the Association and filing copies of correspondence.

The Secretary shall be responsible for the following:

- Maintaining a register of paid members of the Association.
- Sending notice of meetings and reports of meetings to members as appropriate.
- Keeping a record of minutes.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the following:

- Keeping accurate accounts of all monies received and paid by the Association and proper records of the Association's assets and liabilities.
- Issuing receipts, as required, for subscriptions and other monies he or she may receive on behalf of the Association and paying all such monies into the Association's savings account.
- Paying accounts on behalf of the Association, as approved by the Executive.
- Preparing a statement of receipts and expenditure, and a balance sheet for presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

13. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended only at the Annual General Meeting or at a special meeting called by the Secretary for this purpose, at the instigation of the President/Chair, or at the written request of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the members of the Association. The Secretary will ensure that notice of the meeting and of the proposed amendment(s) is posted to members at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

14. DISSOLUTION

A dissolution of the Association shall not take place except upon a resolution passed by not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members of the Association present and voting at a special meeting called by the Secretary for this purpose, at the instigation of the Executive, or at the instigation of $\frac{1}{3}$ the members of the Association. The Secretary will ensure that notice of the meeting and its purpose is posted to members at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association, there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association, but shall be distributed to another body or bodies having similar aims.