



Registered Charity No. 287214

Trustees: Prof. Michael Hand (Chair), Dr David Lewin (Secretary), Dr Naomi Hodgson (Treasurer)

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The aim of the Society is to promote for the public benefit the advancement and teaching of philosophy of education.

Structure and Governance

The Society's affairs and activities are managed by an Executive Committee. The role of Trustee is held by the three senior office holders: the Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Following our usual practice, the Executive Committee met twice during 2020 (March and November) though due to the restrictions necessitated by the pandemic, these meetings took place online via Zoom. The AGM was also held online at its scheduled time in March. 566 members were listed in the Society's register as of 19th March 2021.

The Society's sub-committees are: Finance and General Purposes; Development, inc. Teacher Education; Large Grants; Diversity; Annual Conference. A member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee oversees the Small Grants scheme. A Website and Social Media Steering Group also coordinates and develops the Society's online activity.

Administration

The Society contracts an association management company to provide a range of administrative services, including servicing the AGM and the meetings of the Executive Committee, Finance and General Purposes Committee, and the Development Committee. They also maintain the membership list, handle member communications, manage day-to-day finances, maintain the website, and handle delegate registrations and submissions for the Annual Conference and other conferences as agreed. Since December 2009 these services have been provided by SAS Event Management. The contract is reviewed every three years.

Sources of income

Members pay an annual membership fee, which varies according to their employment and financial status; there are concessionary rates for students and other unwaged members as well as overseas members not in receipt of Western incomes. The Society's principal source of income is the revenue and royalties it receives for the *Journal of Philosophy of Education*, published by Wiley. Wiley also usually provides sponsorship for delegate packs and the dinner on the first evening of the Annual Conference, when held in person, for which the Society is grateful.

Conferences

The Annual Conference is ordinarily held in March/April at New College, Oxford. In 2020, due to the COVID19 pandemic, this and all other conferences and seminars routinely held were either cancelled or adapted to an online format. Virtual meetings and conferences have replaced all face-face events since March 2020. The March 2021 conference was initially moved to September 2021. We have now taken the decision to make this also a virtual conference. The Society is optimistic that a face-to-face Annual Conference can run in March 2022, and that other face-to-face events and seminars can take place in the foreseeable future.

The shift to online events has enabled regular seminars, usually held by the Society's HEI-based branches, to continue, with participation from a broader geographical area and by those otherwise unable to attend due to other commitments. The activities of the Virtual Branch are recorded and made available via the Society's Youtube channel.

Members and officers of the Society remain actively involved in other learned societies and their conferences, namely the Association for Moral Education (AME), British Educational Research Association (BERA), the European Educational Research Association (EERA), International Network of Philosophers of Education (INPE), the Society for Research in Higher Education (SRHE), and the Philosophy of Education Society (US; PES).

Grants and Awards

The Society's Grant Schemes are open to applicants who have been a member of the Society for at least one year, and are awarded to members to assist them in the pursuit of research and other activities that further the aims of the Society. The Society awards Large Grants in the categories of research grants, doctoral studentships, seminar series grants and miscellaneous grants; research grants are currently administered via the British Academy/Leverhulme Trust. Small Grants support attendance at non-PESGB conferences and small-scale collaborative activities in line with the aims of the Society. The Society also offers bursaries to attend the annual conference to teachers and teacher-educators.

Demand for grants has been lower since the beginning of the pandemic due to the inability to travel and attend/convene in-person events. Approximately £54,000 of grant funding was awarded in 2020, although not all of this was claimed and will remain available to the applicants when events can be rescheduled.

Journal and Communication

The *Journal of Philosophy of Education* continues to flourish, and the Society is grateful to the Editor, Assistant Editors, and the Editorial Board for their ongoing hard work. The structure of the Editorial Board was revised in 2020 to reflect an increase in the number of issues per volume published each year, from three to six. The Journal is now overseen by an Executive Editor, supported by two co-Editors, a team of Assistant Editors, and further Editorial Board members.

Online and hard copy subscription to the journal is included in the cost of Society membership. The pandemic did introduce some delays to shipping but these are now resolved. The Journal is also available in more than 4,000 libraries around the world through paid access and around 7,000 more through philanthropic initiatives (free or very low cost). Figures from November 2020 show that 85 articles have been published in an issue YTD (109 in Early View) of which 17.6% were open access (24.8% EV). The journal had 86,644 article downloads for the year to date.

The Society also publishes the open-access, policy-focused IMPACT series.

The Society's website (www.philosophy-of-education.org) provides details of the Society's structure, governance and history, conferences and events, membership, grants, book reviews and publications, resources for students and teachers, and links to other relevant external organisations and sites. The Society also communicates its activities via Facebook and Twitter social media channels. In 2020 the website was relaunched with an increased focus on rolling news and blogging. The Society produces an Annual Newsletter, published online, which summarises the Society's activities for the year.

Regional Branch Activity

The Society has 22 regional branches at Bath and Bristol, Bedford, Birmingham, Cambridge, Devon and Cornwall, Dundee, Durham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ireland, London, Netherlands and Flanders, North-West (Liverpool), Nottingham, Oxford, Roehampton, Sheffield, South Coast (Winchester), South East, South Wales, Warwick, and West Yorkshire (Leeds Trinity). Levels of branch activity were reduced in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic but many branches adapted to an online format and the accessibility benefits this afforded to continue with programmes of UK-based and international speakers.