

CONSTITUTION of

Speak to the Future – The Campaign for Languages

Name and Objects

1. The organisation shall be called “Speak to the Future – The Campaign for Languages”. The organisation may also operate under the name “Speak to the Future”. Hereafter, the organisation is referred to as “the Campaign”.
2. The Objects of the Campaign shall be to make the case for a long-term commitment to achieving an improvement in the UK’s capacity in languages and a step change in language learning. The Campaign will focus on five strategic objectives:
 - Every language valued as an asset
 - A coherent experience of languages for all children in primary school
 - A basic working knowledge of at least two languages including English for every child leaving secondary school
 - Every graduate qualified in a second language
 - An increase in the number of highly qualified linguists

The Campaign will:

- promote the value of languages and language learning in the UK, and raise the visibility of related issues with the public, the media and policy-makers
- monitor and comment on the actions and the proposals of policy-makers in the fields of education, civil society and the economy, especially as they affect languages and international business and relations, study, society, research and employment;
- establish working relationships with relevant organisations and individuals;
- collect appropriate data and carry out, or commission, studies of relevant activities in the UK and overseas;
- prepare reports and reviews for publication and for submission to appropriate bodies such as Departments of Government.

The Campaign is an independent organisation seeking to advance the causes of language learning and language-related research; it is not affiliated with any political body.

Membership

3. There will be two categories of membership available to those who subscribe to the Objectives and agree to participate in the Campaign: full membership will be open to organisations and associate membership will be open to individuals.
4. Members' meetings shall take place twice a year.

Executive Committee (EC)

5. The EC shall consist of a Chairperson, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Fund-raising Officer, Minutes / Membership Secretary, a representative of the British Academy and Co-ordinators of the Working Groups. Members of the EC shall be elected at a General Meeting. Members of the EC shall hold office for up to 2 years and then be eligible for re-election.
6. The EC shall have the power to co-opt, to fill casual vacancies.
7. The quorum for meetings of the EC shall be 4 including at least one honorary officer.
8. The EC shall meet at least three times each year.
9. The EC shall approve the membership of relevant organisations and of individuals, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 3 above.
10. The EC shall have the power to establish Working Groups.

Working Groups (WG)

11. WGs, to be established in the first instance focusing on the five Objectives of the Campaign, shall consist of expert linguists and other individuals who agree to participate in the Campaign in an advisory capacity.
12. Each WG shall be convened by a Co-ordinator who is an ex officio member of the EC. Co-ordinators shall have the power to invite individuals to be appointed to the WGs. Co-ordinators shall report on WG activities and membership to the EC.
13. Co-ordinators of the WGs shall submit a report on activities to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Finance and Support

14. The Campaign will seek voluntary donations and support from organisations and individuals wishing to further its aims.
15. The Campaign will seek grants and other sources of funding.
16. The Accounts of the Campaign shall be inspected annually and presented to the Annual General Meeting for approval.

General meetings

17. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall normally be held between 30 April and 31 July in each year.
18. The business which shall be transacted by the AGM shall be to receive and consider the Annual Report of the EC, to consider the Accounts, to elect candidates to fill vacancies for the EC and to consider such business as shall be brought forward by or with the sanction of the EC and which shall have been stated in the notice convening the meeting.
19. The quorum for any General Meeting shall be 10 including at least 3 members of the EC of which one must be an honorary officer.
20. The conduct of all General Meetings shall be determined by the Chair of the Meeting, who shall be the Chairperson of the EC or such other person as the EC may appoint.

21. Notice of General Meetings

- a) Notice of all General Meetings shall be sent to every nominated representative of member organisations and to individual members no less than fourteen days before the day of such Meeting, except that when a resolution to dissolve the Campaign is proposed, the period of notice shall be not less than three months. Such notice shall be in the form prescribed for the time being by the EC.
- b) The accidental omission to give notice to any member entitled to receive notice of any Meeting of the Campaign or the non-receipt of notice by any such member shall not invalidate anything done at the meeting.

Votes

22. Each full member shall have one vote but if there is an equality of votes the person who is chairing the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to any other vote he or she may have.

Remuneration

23. The campaign can pay consultants or employees to support its work as directed by EC. Such roles will be filled by the EC through open and best practice procedures, and with this proviso may include associate members or staff of full members.
24. Members of the EC itself shall not be entitled to receive remuneration, but shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for expenses in accordance with paragraph 26.

Indemnity Provisions

25. In the execution of the Objects hereof and their powers and duties no Member of the EC shall be liable for any loss to the property of the Campaign arising by reason of an improper investment made in good faith (so long as he or she shall have sought professional advice before making such investment) or for the negligence or fraud of any agent employed by him or by any other member of the EC or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any member of the EC or by reason of any other matter or thing other than willful and individual fraud on the part of the member of the EC who is sought to be made liable.
26. The Members of the EC shall be entitled to be reimbursed and to pay and discharge out of the capital and income of the campaign all reasonable costs, charges and expenses properly incurred in or about the execution of the Objects of the Campaign or powers imposed or conferred upon them by virtue of or under the Constitution or by law.
27. The Members of the EC shall be entitled to indemnity insurance protection to be paid by the Campaign.
28. Salaried officials and paid consultants appointed by the EC shall be entitled in a similar manner as are members of the EC under paragraph 23.

Changes in the Constitution

29. Any amendment of or addition to the Constitution recommended by the EC may be made only by a General Meeting at which at least two-thirds of those present and voting are in favour of the amendment.

Dissolution Provisions

30. The Campaign shall be dissolved if at any General meeting a resolution for the dissolution of the Campaign is passed by a majority of three-fourths of such of the Members entitled to vote as shall be present and vote thereon, provided that three months' notice shall be given of any such resolution.
31. If upon dissolution of the Campaign there remain any assets whatsoever the same shall be paid and distributed by decision of the EC to organisations supporting the Objects of the Campaign.