

BRITISH & FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY

ROYAL CHARTER – 31st MAY 1906 *revised by Royal Charter of 1999*

EDWARD VII., by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith: To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting.

Whereas the Right Honourable Arthur Herbert-Dyke Acland, His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, K.G., Thomas Buxton Morrish, Esq., Robert Barclay, Esq., and Alfred Bourne, Esq., being respectively the President, one of the Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the General Committee, the Treasurer, and the Secretary of the British and Foreign School Society (hereinafter referred to as “the existing Society), have presented to Us their humble Petition, setting forth, amongst other things, to the effect following, that is to say: That the existing Society was originally formed in the year 1808 under the name of “The Society for Promoting the Royal British or Lancastrian System for the Education of the Poor,” with the primary object of carrying on the School and Training Institution, founded about the year 1798 by Joseph Lancaster, in the Borough Road, Southwark, and of urging upon the friends of education in all parts of the world the adoption of his principles and methods.

That those principles have been frequently defined by the authority of the existing Society, and may be re-stated as follows:-

- (1) That the development of the physical, mental, and moral nature of children is an object worthy of pursuit for its own sake – privately as a philanthropic mission and publicly as a State concern.
- (2) That this object is best pursued by combined action – all sects and parties sinking their differences in the provision of the best educational means, and using them in the common school on equal terms.
- (3) That while the cultivation of religious thought, the expression of religious feeling, and the performance of religious work may, and generally do, lead up to creeds and separate churches, there are certain fundamentals of religion and morals which the intelligent reading of the Bible is the best means of encouraging.

That in accordance with the above principles the aim of the existing Society has constantly been to develop the physical, moral, and mental nature of the pupils in its schools and colleges by giving the best secular instruction and training, by using the Holy Scriptures without any catechism or formulary distinctive of any religious denomination.

That the principal methods by which this aim has been pursued may be described under five heads –

- (i) Establishing and maintaining and contributing to the establishment and maintenance of Training Colleges and other Institutions in which to illustrate the above principles, and to instruct and prepare persons who, as teachers in elementary or other schools, will be able to put them into practice;
- (ii) Encouraging and assisting in the foundation and maintenance of Local

- Schools in England and Wales conducted according to the above principles for the benefit of the poorer classes of society of every religious persuasion, and providing such schools with school books from a central depository;
- (iii) Establishing and administering endowments for the benefit of such Colleges and Schools as above mentioned, and for the provision of exhibitions and prizes tenable thereat;
 - (iv) Assisting in the government and management of charitable foundations having the like objects to those of the existing Society by acting as or appointing Governors or Trustees thereof and otherwise;
 - (v) Propagating the above principles in British Colonies and Dependencies and in Foreign Countries.

That divers Training Colleges, Schools, Institutions, lands and hereditaments, and charitable foundations and funds are held by various Trustees for the existing Society for the purposes aforesaid, or some of them, or are administered or controlled by or connected with the existing Society.

That the existing Society is also entitled to various funds standing in the name of Trustees for that Society, and representing donations and bequests from time to time given for the general purposes of that Society.

That the income of the existing Society is derived from the dividend and interest arising from the last-mentioned funds, and from voluntary contributions and from grants from the Board of Education and from fees paid by students and scholars.

That for the reasons therein mentioned, and in the belief of the Petitioners, it would be greatly for the benefit of the existing Society that it should be under the protection of Our Royal Sanction by means of Our Charter of Incorporation, and that the same would greatly tend to promote the objects for which the existing Society was established.

And whereas We have taken the said Petition into our Royal consideration, and We are minded to accede thereto.

Now therefore know ye that We, by virtue of our Royal Prerogative in that behalf, and of all other powers thereunto Us enabling, of Our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, by these presents do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant, will, direct, ordain, constitute, appoint and declare as follows:

1. All such persons as shall, pursuant to this Our Charter and the Statutes made thereunder, be for the time being Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and members of the Society hereinafter mentioned, are hereby created and henceforth for ever shall be one body politic and corporate by the name and style of "The British and Foreign School Society" (hereinafter called "the Society") for the objects and purposes for which the existing Society now exists as hereinbefore appearing, and by the same name and style shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal, with power to break, alter, or renew, and make regulations as to the use of the same at their discretion, - and by and in the same name and style may sue and be sued in any Court or place of Judicature within the dominions of Us, Our Heirs and Successors.

<p>2.1 In this our Charter, the expression “the Trust Fund” shall mean all those assets currently subject to the trusts of the Society, any further assets paid or accruing to the Society whether by way of further settlement capital accretion or otherwise proceeds of sale thereof and the assets from time to time representing these respectively.</p> <p>2.2 The Society shall hold the Trust Fund upon trust at its discretion to retain it in its existing form of investment or to sell the same or any part or parts thereof and to invest the net proceeds of such sale and any other cash subject to the said trusts in any kind or kinds of investment authorised by this Charter, the Statutes or law with power at any time and from time to time to vary any such investment for any other or others hereby authorised.</p> <p>2.3 The Society may at any time (with such consents (if any) as may from time to time be required by law) sell, lease, demise, let, license, cultivate (whether alone or in partnership or under some other arrangement), construct, maintain, improve or alter any buildings or works on and generally manage and deal with and dispose of any land or buildings or interest therein comprised in the Trust Fund in such manner as the Society shall think fit.</p> <p>2.4 The Society may pay out of the Trust Fund all rent, rates, taxes, costs of insurance, repairs and other outgoings at any time payable in respect of any leasehold or freehold land (including buildings) comprised in the Trust Fund and all expenses of insuring such land and buildings in hand to their full value against damage by fire or otherwise and may also pay out of the Trust Fund the salaries and wages of all officers and servants of the Society and all other expenses of and incidental to the management of the Trust Fund or any purpose connected with the Society.</p> <p>2.5 The Society may charge the whole or any part or parts of any item of income expenditure and the whole or any part or parts of any item of capital expenditure to the Trust Fund or to the income as they shall in their absolute discretion think fit.</p>	
<p>3. The Governing Body of the Society shall be a Council to be called “the Council of the British and Foreign School Society,” and hereinafter called “the Council.”</p>	
<p>4. There shall be a President and Vice-Presidents of the Society. The first President under this Our Charter shall be the Right Honourable Arthur Herbert Dyke Acland. The first Vice-Presidents under this our Charter shall be –</p> <p>Vice-Presidents</p> <p>His Grace the Duke of Devonshire KG The Most Hon the Marquis of Lansdowne KG, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE The Rt Hon the Earl Spencer KG The Rt Hon the Earl of Aberdeen CGMG The Rt Hon the Earl Carrington CGMG The Rt Hon the Earl of Portsmouth The Rt Rev John, Lord Bishop of Hereford The Rt Hon Lord Reay, CGSI, CGIE The Rt Hon Lord Stanley of Alderley</p>	

<p>The Rt Hon Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, CGMG The Rt Hon H H Asquith, KC, MP The Rt Hon James Bryce MP The Rt Rev Thomas, Bishop of Barking Sir Thos Barlow, Bart, MD, KCVO Sir J Whitehead, Bart Sir George Kekewich, KCB, MP Sir H Evelyn Oakley, MA The Very Rev George William Kitchen, DD, Dean of Durham The Hon and Very Rev William Henry Freemantle, DD, Dean of Ripon The Rev Canon Warburton, MA The Rev John Clifford, MA, DD, LLD The Rev A M Fairbairn MA, DD E North Buxton, Esq George Cadbury, Esq F J Goodhart, Esq, MD, FRCP P H Pye Smith, Esq, MD, FRS</p>	
<p>5. The first Members of the Council shall be the persons named in that behalf in the 28th Statute set forth in the Schedule to this our Charter.</p>	
<p>6. The first Members of the Society shall be the above-named President and Vice-Presidents and such other persons as are named as Life Members and Annual Members respectively in the Register of Members of the Society certified by the said Alfred Bourne as complete and correct, and bearing even date with the Order in Council for the preparation of the Warrant for passing this our Charter under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom.</p>	
<p>7. The Statutes of the Society may (subject as aforesaid) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Prescribe the qualification, causes of removal, and the manner of the election, appointment, and removal, and the terms of office of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Society, and of the Members of the Council (whether appointed by this Our Charter or subsequently to the grant thereof); (b) Prescribe the terms upon which and the periods for which persons (whether appointed by this Our Charter or incoming Members subsequently to the grant thereof) shall continue (and as to such subsequent members shall become) Members of the Society; (c) Prescribe what Officers the Society shall have, and the terms, conditions, and periods upon which and for which they shall continue in office; (d) Prescribe and regulate the powers of the Council, the conduct of its business, and all other matters relative to the Council which it may be thought proper so to prescribe or regulate; (e) Make special provision for the conduct of the Finance of the Society; (f) Empower the Council to make and from time to time to revoke, add to, vary, and amend Byelaws for regulating (subject to this Our Charter and the Statutes of the Society) the proceedings of the Council and its Committees, the conduct of the business and affairs of the Society, and such proceedings and duties of its officers and servants as required to be so regulated; 	

<p>(g) Provide for the government and constitution of the Society in all respects not otherwise provided for by this Our Charter.</p>	
<p>8. The Statutes of the Society shall be those set forth in the Schedule to this Our Charter, and the same are hereby declared to be valid and effectual to all intents and purposes whatsoever. The Statutes may be added to, amended, altered, or repealed, and new Statutes made from time to time by the Society, provided that no such addition, amendment, alteration, or repeal shall be effective unless it shall have been resolved upon by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the members present and voting at a General Meeting of the Society, specially summoned for the purpose. Provided that no such Statutes shall have any force or effect until allowed by the Lords of Our Privy Council, of which allowance a certificate under the hand of the Clerk of Our Privy Council shall be conclusive evidence.</p>	
<p>9. The Council shall, subject to this Our Charter and the Statutes and Byelaws of the Society and the Laws of the Realm, have supreme power over and the entire government and control of the affairs of the Society.</p>	
<p>10. The Council may delegate to an investment manager (being a proper and competent person as defined in the Statutes) power at his discretion to buy and sell investments for the Society in accordance with the investment policy laid down by the Council and with other arrangements specified from time to time in the Statutes.</p>	
<p>11. The Society shall not make any dividend, gift, or bonus out of its property or funds unto or between any of its members. The property and funds of the Society shall be utilised solely for the purposes of its objects, business, and affairs, and the carrying out of such purposes.</p>	
<p>12. The provisions of this Our Charter may from time to time be amended, revoked or added to by a resolution passed by not less than three-quarters of the members present and voting in a General Meeting specifically summoned for the purpose and of which twenty-one days' notice has been given to all the members of the Society entitled to receive such notice and any amendment, and any revocation or addition shall when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council become effective so that this Our Charter, as so amended, revoked or added to, shall thenceforth operate as if it had originally been granted or made accordingly, but without prejudice to anything previously lawfully effected, made or done in accordance with the said provisions. This Article shall apply to this Our Charter as amended, revoked or added to in the manner aforesaid.</p>	
<p>13. The Society shall have power at any time or times by a majority of not less than three-quarters of the members present and voting at a General Meeting specially summoned for the purpose to resolve to Surrender this Our Charter and that the affairs of the Society be wound up and after the due passing of any such resolution the Society shall hold the Trust Fund and its income upon trust duly to discharge all the debts and other liabilities properly payable and subject to that upon trust to transfer the same to such other charitable trusts or bodies having objects similar to the objects of the Society; and subject thereto to such charitable trusts or bodies (whether corporate or not) in such proportions (if more than one) and on such terms as the Society shall in its absolute discretion decide.</p>	
<p>14. Lastly, We do hereby, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, grant that</p>	

<p>these our Letters Patent shall be in and by all things good, firm, valid, sufficient, and effectual in law, notwithstanding any omission, imperfection, defect, matter, cause, or thing whatsoever to the contrary thereof in these our Letters Patent contained, and shall be taken, construed, and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense, and to the best advantage of and for the Society, as well in Our Courts of Record as elsewhere, notwithstanding any recital, mis-recital, uncertainty, or imperfection in these Our Letters Patent.</p>	
<p>In witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.</p> <p>Witness Ourselves at Our Palace of Westminster this thirty-first day of May in the sixth year of Our Reign.</p> <p>By Warrant under the King's Sign Manual/</p>	
<p>The 1906 Statutes of the Society were completely replaced by those of the 1999 Charter.</p>	
<p>RJG/19.4.13</p>	