



GLOBAL SCHOOL PARTNERS

Memorandum of Understanding with Partner Schools



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www.globalschoolpartners.org.au

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - 2020



Definitions

Development and Humanitarian Activity – Global School Partners is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development are used only for those purposes. The concept of aid and development activities can be distinguished by the following principles:

- Empowerment approaches which encourage people and communities to create solutions for themselves.
For example, Global School Partners' activities are decided and recommended by local in-country partners.
- Strengthen local implementing partner organisations in developing countries so as to enable them to deliver effective programs.
For example, Global School Partners does not undertake activities by Australian team members that can be carried out by local people in the community.
- Supporting systems and structures which enable people to move out of poverty through processes that seek to address the causes of poverty.
For example, Global School Partners believes that a lack of education can contribute to a future of poverty for individuals and communities.
- Processes that seek to empower rights holders to claim their rights and ensure that duty bearers exercise their duties.
For example, Global School Partners has a rigorous three tiered audit process for all activities.
- Providing good value for money, sustainable activities (financially and environmentally) with long-term effectiveness.
- The projects undertaken will be proactively assessed for risk, environmental soundness and a 'do no harm' approach will be adopted, in particular in relation to gender equality and disability inclusion.
- Benefits for groups and individuals are selected based on need not religious, sectarian or political grounds.
- Implementation by local people acceptable to the national or local authorities of the country in which the activities are planned and be consistent with the country's development policies.
- Provide channels for Australians to contribute directly and meaningfully in international development efforts through voluntary activities and financial support.

Non-Development Activity – Global School Partners is a secular organisation and does not provide support for evangelical activities and partisan political activities. Evangelical activities are those activities that promote a particular religious adherence or are undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another.

Partisan political activities are those that are associated with facilitating or supporting specific political party, candidate to gain power or to support organisation affiliated with a political party.

Global School Partners defines non-development activities as those that are delivered with the express purpose of gaining:

- Political advantage, objectives or having any direct use of resources or funds to support any political movement, local, regional or national;
- Religious witnesses or promoting a particular religion, including intentions of converting individuals or groups and building religious structures;
- Welfare activities which include on-going care and maintenance of individuals and family units for a prolonged period of time, such as long-term sponsorship of students.

Partner School – school being assisted by Global School Partners

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Preamble

Global School Partners is committed to:

- Increasing the opportunity and likelihood of individuals at our Partner Schools, to complete their schooling and excel in school education.
- Increasing learning, understanding and generosity between school communities across the world, in such a way as to build sustainable development in each community.
- Facilitating a deeper appreciation of the social and cultural differences, and similarities, that exist between countries, cultures and individuals.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is intended to foster effective relationships and innovative sustainable development projects.

Shared development principles

The following principles are shared between both parties:

Vision and Values

The Global School Partners' Vision, Mission, Values and Human Rights Statement outlines the philosophy and aims of the organisation.

Both parties share these values and viewpoints and agree to work towards common goals.

Development effectiveness

A strong focus on the evaluation of program effectiveness, particularly from the perspective of partners and beneficiaries, is central to this MoU. The long-term positive impact on the lives of the Partner School communities, will be an important measure in this regard.

Global School Partners is committed to:

- Accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, donors and the public.
- Utilisation of funds for aid and development purposes are not used to exploit people and communities who are vulnerable and do not place any conditions or obligations on recipients in terms of non-development, religious or political outcomes that would affect their access to services being offered.
- The separation of development activities from non-development activities, so that funds provided for a specific activity may only be used for that activity, unless agreed in writing by both parties. Non-development activities must be kept financially separated and all communications relating to non-development activities must be communicated separately to development activities and clearly identified as such.

Both parties agree to abide by the Global School Partners' Governance and Activity Development Policies, and to utilise the Global School Partners Activity Framework and Activity Checklist when proposing, accepting and evaluating an activity.

Reducing poverty

The aim is to address both the causes and effects of poverty through the promotion of self-reliance and facilitation of access to basic services including education, water supply and sanitation, health and other resources.



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Building capacity and sustainability

A strong focus on enhancing the capacity of Partner Schools, and their broader communities, to be self-sufficient, empowered and sustainable.

The MoU recognises an agreed focus on activities designed to benefit future generations as well as the present generation, taking account of issues of environmental sustainability and long-term economic and financial viability.

Both parties agree to consider the environmental impact of activities and to submit and evaluate environmental impact reports, as required in the Global School Partners' Activity Framework.

Both parties agree to abide by the Global School Partners' Procurement and Resource Management Policy and agree to the alignment of all Global School Partners' activities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights.

Gender

Gender equality is recognised by both parties as essential to reducing poverty, promoting social justice and increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of development cooperation efforts. Gender equality is also a critical development goal in its own right.

Global School Partners fully endorses the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Every person who represents Global School Partners and our partners in Australia and overseas is expected to reflect these values in their professional and private conduct, regardless of who they are dealing with and where they are geographically located. Global School Partners views sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment as a violation of basic human rights and is committed to proactively work to provide a safe, trusted and protective environment for Global School Partners programs and activities, which safeguards all people and stakeholders involved.

Global School Partners works with some of the most vulnerable of the world's people. Therefore Global School Partners' representatives and partner organisation representatives are in positions of authority and trust in relation to the communities we work with, and this means that they must uphold the highest standard of personal and professional conduct at all times and must not abuse their position to exploit or harm in any way another person. Both parties agree to abide by the Global School Partners' Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy.

Disability Inclusive

People with a disability are often among the poorest, most vulnerable and excluded members of developing countries.

Both parties agree to support and promote practical approaches to promote the dignity and well-being of people with a disability. This includes using the Global School Partners' Student Nomination form which includes information relating to a child's ability status.

Participation and good governance

Efforts will be strongly focused on increasing the participation of disadvantaged and marginalised students in school education.

The aim is for all actions to be honest, open and transparent, always maintaining the integrity of all parties to this agreement in every circumstance.

Both parties agree to abide by the Global School Partners' Governance, Transparency, Privacy, Human Relations, Fraud and Corruption, Conflict of Interest, Complaints and Communications policies and all associated, signed commitments.

Child Safeguarding Policy

Global School Partners recognises that by the nature of our work, that certain activities may pose a risk to children. Global School Partners believes that all children always have the right to be safe.

Both parties agree to abide by the Global School Partners' Child Safeguarding Policy and to sign the Global School Partners' Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct and the Global School Partners' Use of Children's Images and Personal Information Commitment. Also refer to Global School Partners' Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment Policy.



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Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment Policy

Both parties view sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment as a violation of basic human rights and are committed to proactively work to provide safe, trusted and protective environments, which safeguard all people.

Both parties agree to abide by the Global School Partners' Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment Policy which applies to all people, including adults and children. Also refer to Global School Partners' Child Safeguarding Policy.

Counter Terrorism Policy

Global School Partners strongly objects to terrorist operations and will not align itself with or support any terrorist organization. Global School partners will not support projects or programs from implementing partners that involve terrorist organisations or have any dealings with terrorist or criminal organisations or peoples known to have links to such organisations. Global School Partners will not align itself with any known persons or organisations which engage in money laundering.

Both parties agree to abide by and sign the Global School Partners' Counter Terrorism Declaration.

Global School Partners' and Partner School undertakings

Global School Partners will:

- act in good faith and in accordance with all Global School Partners' Policies and Statements*
- maintain positive lines of communication with Partner Schools, both in Australia and overseas
- provide Partner Schools with all funds donated for the school, and will specify the use of those funds according to the donors' wishes and identifying whether the funds are for a development activity or if applicable for a non-development activity
NOTE: That Global School Partners will NOT provide funds to Partner Schools for the purpose of advancing any political or religious cause
- provide timely reports to each Partner School outlining all financial and non-financial contributions from donors that pertain to that school
- make every effort to assist the Partner School to meet its goals and objectives, which includes fund raising to provide financial assistance, maintaining communication with all stakeholders and providing teacher, health worker and management training when in-country and from time to time other supportive activities.

The Partner School will:

- act in good faith and in accordance with all Global School Partners' Policies and Statements*
- maintain positive lines of communication with Global School Partners
- utilise all funds received from Global School Partners strictly in accordance with the use specified by Global School Partners, which is according to the financial donors' wishes
- NOT use any provided funds for the purpose of advancing any political or religious cause
- provide timely reports to Global School Partners to account for the use of all funds and resources provided by Global School Partners, providing specific details of funds used for each development activity and if applicable, non-development activity
- allow open and full access to the school by Global School Partners representatives and the GSP-KC Executive Committee members, at prearranged times and for specified purposes
- seek over time to become self-sustaining and financially independent of Global School Partners.

* **Note:** All Global School Partners' Policies, Statements and Declarations are available on the Global School Partners' website <https://www.globalschoolpartners.org.au/gsp-policies>



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Dispute resolution

Global School Partners will give due consideration to any dispute raised and enter discussions with the intention of enabling a full, fair and transparent investigation of the matter and achieving a positive outcome for all stakeholders.

Should a disagreement arise all communications must be documented in writing and all parties involved shall endeavour to resolve the documented dispute through negotiation.

The process for dispute resolution – for disputes raised by a Partner School:

- The Partner School in the first instance, must take the matter to their County Executive Committee
- If no satisfactory resolution is achieved within 21 days of the written notification, then the matter may be referred to the GSP-KC Executive Committee
- If no satisfactory resolution is achieved within 21 days, then the matter may be referred to GSP CEO
- Finally, if there is no resolution by the CEO within 21 days, the matter may be referred to the GSP Board, or an independent, qualified mediator, agreed between the parties. The role of the mediator will be to mediate a negotiated settlement to the dispute. The costs of the mediation shall be shared between the disputing parties, unless otherwise agreed.
- If, having followed this process the dispute remains unresolved, then with formal notice given in writing the partnership described in this MOU can be dissolved.

The process for dispute resolution – for disputes raised by Global School Partners:

- Global School Partners in the first instance, must raise the matter with the Partner School Director
- If no satisfactory resolution is achieved within 21 days, Global School Partners may refer the matter to the relevant County Executive Committee
- If no satisfactory resolution is achieved within 21 days, then the matter may be referred to the GSP-KC Executive Committee
- Finally, if no satisfactory resolution is achieved within 21 days, then the matter must be taken to the GSP Board, or an independent, qualified mediator, agreed between the parties. The role of the mediator will be to mediate a negotiated settlement to the dispute. The costs of the mediation shall be shared between the disputing parties, unless otherwise agreed.
- If, having followed this process the dispute remains unresolved, then with formal notice given in writing the partnership described in this MOU can be dissolved.

NOTE: If the dispute concerns matters relating to the ACFID Code of Conduct, a complaint may be lodged with ACFID <https://acfid.asn.au/content/how-make-complaint>

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Memorandum of Understanding Signing Page



Date: _____

Name:

Signature:

Partner School + Position held:

Simon Philip Carroll

Name:

Signature:

CEO – Global School Partners

Position + Organisation



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