

Global Schools Forum - Membership Agreement

1. THE MISSION AND VISION OF GLOBAL SCHOOLS FORUM

Global Schools Forum is an independent, not-for-profit membership organisation¹ of education entrepreneurs who are running and supporting innovative and inclusive schools.

The **vision** of Global Schools Forum is a world where all children have access to quality education.

Our **mission** is to raise learning outcomes, expand equitable access and increase transparency in the education sector by supporting and representing non-state schools and school networks serving low and middle-income families in emerging markets.

We **aim** to do this by: building and strengthening networks and providing opportunities for collaboration; building and sharing expertise and knowledge; generating better and more transparent data and evidence; and shaping and influencing global dialogue.

We believe the non-state sector can play an important role in strengthening education systems globally. We believe that government should be the guarantor, and not necessarily the sole provider of education. Cooperation and partnership between the non-state sector and governments can help deliver high quality education for all children.

2. MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

GSF partners with members and our wider network, drawing on collective expertise and experiences to develop and deliver services that **build members' capacity and strengthen their position in the education system globally**. We identify needs and challenges and connect members with the best organisations, people and resources to meet and overcome these.

Being a member of Global Schools Forum (GSF), you will:

- Be **welcomed into a top-class global network of individuals and organisations passionate about improving education for the poorest children**
- **Attend curated events** such as the annual forum, study tours and regional or thematic meetings for thoughtful conversations, debates and mutual learning opportunities
- **Share and learn through working groups** on specific topics such as a per pupil cost comparison framework and communities of practice around identified thematic areas for example on early childhood development or the role of chief academic officers
- **Benefit from access to toolkits, professional development workshops and databases** of academic, teacher planning and social-emotional learning resources
- Have **opportunities to raise the profile of your organisation** and meet and build meaningful relationships with well-known impact funders, policy influencers and education experts
- **Be part of, and contribute to, building a stronger, more cohesive and transparent sector**

We continuously develop and refine our services based on emerging member needs and feedback. A full list of our services and membership benefits can be found in our Membership Brochure.

In addition, members of GSF are free to use the GSF logo on their website and promotional material to demonstrate their commitment to and participation in the GSF community. Should membership status change, the GSF logo must no longer be used.

¹ Global Schools Forum is currently being incubated by Ark Ventures, part of the education charity Ark. Ark Ventures incubates, launches and supports organisations that have the potential to deliver widespread change in education and society. Ark is registered in England as Absolute Return for Kids (Ark) as a company limited by guarantee number 04589451 and charity number 1095322 and is therefore governed by English law. Ark holds legal and fiduciary responsibility for Global Schools Forum until spin-out when Global Schools Forum will become to become an independent organisation.

3. MEMBER CHARACTERISTICS

GSF is a community of like-minded members that are interested in discussing, sharing and collaborating to strengthen schools, school networks, and the non-state sector more broadly. The purpose of this section is to build confidence and transparency around the integrity and professional standards of GSF and its members.

3.1 Mission alignment

As a member of GSF, your organisation must commit to the vision and mission of GSF as laid out above.

In addition, GSF and its members want to contribute to a strong education system where:

- Children from low income backgrounds have access to quality education regardless of their ability to pay, gender, religious affiliation or any other defining characteristic, delivered by government and/or non-state organisations
- Learning outcomes are measured and inform improvements
- All schools are rigorous and transparent about intakes and results. This includes, but is not limited to, schools having clear admissions policies and fully publishing their results
- Schools are independently evaluated for quality and learning and the outcomes are shared publically
- Schools promote student safety, wellbeing and engagement, providing opportunities for leadership and voice
- Schools work together to share best practices in order to improve learning outcomes for children

3.2 Building a GSF Community

Building a dynamic, learning and growing community of like-minded GSF members is essential. GSF therefore expects that its members will:

- Participate and contribute in discussions, events and forums
- Bring their knowledge and expertise to GSF and actively share best practice with other members
- Disseminate information within their schools and networks to maximise impact
- Be ambassadors of GSF and invite others to join
- Make recommendations to improve existing services or suggest new ones

GSF members are expected to adopt the highest standards of fairness and integrity and no member shall act in a manner detrimental to the interests of students, school communities, the wider public, other members or GSF.

4. REQUIREMENTS FROM MEMBERS

Membership is voluntary and GSF is not a governing body for schools or a regulator of member organisation. Membership is organisational not individual – available to senior management within a school or school network or relevant people within an intermediary organisation. While GSF recognises the autonomy of schools and school networks, members that join GSF undertake to comply with the conditions and requirements set out below.

4.1 Information to GSF

All information shared with GSF will be held according to our [privacy policy](#) and the sharing guidelines detailed below.

4.1.1 Membership form

All members complete a membership form. Members agree that basic information such as organisation logo, name of CEO/Founder, countries of operation, total schools in network/portfolio, number of students in network/portfolio, and a link to the member's website, can be shared on the GSF website.

4.1.2 Annual Census

Members are expected to complete the GSF annual census by March/April each year so GSF can collate, analyse and share the data anonymously on the GSF website and with the sector.

4.1.3 Documentation

Child Protection

GSF has a Child Protection policy, which details its commitment to ensuring the safety and protection of all children. In addition, GSF requires all members to commit to having the right structures and processes in place to ensure the safety and protection of all children directly or indirectly in their care.

Please read the statements below and indicate **the** statement that applies to your organisation:

Confirmation	Initials
We (the member) have Child Protection policies and procedures in place that are appropriate for the context in which our organisation operates.	
We (the member) do not currently have Child Protection policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety and protection of children. However, we are committed to ensuring these are in place, at the latest, by the end of our first year of membership. We recognise our membership is conditional on this timeline being met.	

Admissions Policy

If a member has selective admissions to any of their schools, they will also be required to share their admissions policy as part of the membership application process.

Other

Other documentation may be requested if there are concerns raised about members.

4.2 School registration and licensing

GSF is fundamentally committed to working alongside government therefore the expectation is that members comply with relevant national and local school registration systems. Members that are running schools are required to be registered and licensed to operate their schools in their country(ies) of operation. Members that are Intermediary Organisations are expected to know which portfolio schools are registered to operate and be supporting the remainder to register where possible. Membership can be granted in cases where compliance with licensing requirements and positive engagement with government are demonstrated even if licenses are not yet in place. If concerns are raised about members' compliance with government regulations, GSF will use discretion to inform their decision-making processes.

4.3 Information to non-members

Members will ensure that products, information and documents received from GSF members or via the GSF Collaboration Platform are not directly or indirectly disclosed or shared with non-member organisations without the written permission of the person or organisation who shared, delivered or provided them.

4.4 Advertising

Members will ensure that advertising, articles, speeches, notices, or any forms of publication are governed by professional ethics.

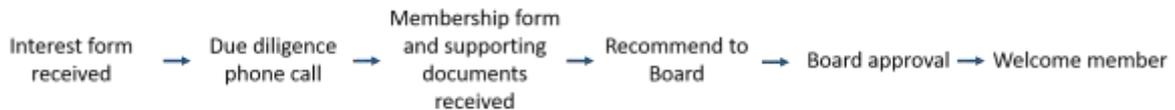
5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

5.1 New membership

Membership is open to pre-primary, primary and secondary schools and school networks in low- and middle-income countries serving children from low-income backgrounds and to intermediary organisations working with schools like these. Requests for membership are reviewed by the GSF team and Board for eligibility based on the information provided in the membership form, gained from the due diligence phone call and references. If concerns are raised that the behaviour of the applicant is detrimental to their schools (or portfolio of schools) staff, students, the system more widely or any other issue that raises concerns for the Board, then further information may be required during the application process. Please note: Membership is at the discretion of the GSF Board.

Once membership has been approved, members have access to the full range of products and services offered by GSF and will be invited to login to the online collaboration platform.

5.1.1 Membership approval process



5.2 Membership renewal

GSF membership is automatically renewed annually, until members request to cancel it.

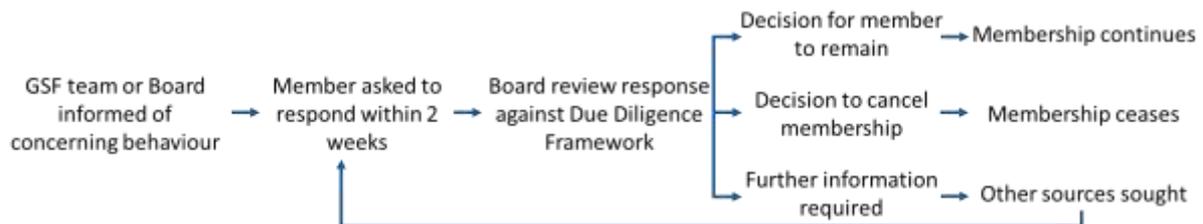
Implementation of a Child Protection Policy within the first year and completion of the GSF Annual Census and are both conditions of GSF membership. Therefore if these conditions are not met, membership will not be continued.

5.3 Membership cancellation

If a member requests to cancel their membership, this takes immediate effect from the date the cancellation request is received in writing by the GSF team, and all member benefits and rights cease at that time.

GSF reserves the right to cancel membership at any time for reasons that contravene this agreement. In cases such as these, a review process will be undertaken prior to cancellation and the member will be informed of this.

5.3.1 Membership cancellation review process



5.4 Annual fees

GSF intends to be partially self-sustainable through the annual collection of membership fees. In the first two years of operation, no membership fees will be charged; thereafter, all members will be expected to pay fees annually. Members will be provided clear guidance on the fee structure at least six months prior to the introduction of the annual fee payment and have the opportunity to decide to continue with GSF at that time.

5.5 Governance and management

The GSF Board retains the leadership and decision-making responsibility. GSF is managed by a small team, headed by a Director and reporting to the Board; the GSF team will submit Progress Reports to the GSF Board, at triannual Board meetings.

The Board currently comprises of one representative from each of GSF’s funders. These are Ark, IDP Foundation, Omidyar Network, Pearson Affordable Learning Fund and UBS Optimus. This governance structure will change as GSF develops to incorporate wider representation. Members will be advised of governance changes and invited to participate in decisions about the formation and role of the new Board. These terms and conditions will be updated at the time of change.

5.6 Communicating with GSF Members

GSF seeks to communicate transparently and regularly with members, enabling them to maximise their membership experience and actively engage in the GSF community. Communication will happen through multiple channels including but not limited to emails, collaboration platform, Skype and phone calls. Communication will comply with the latest Data Protection and GDPR requirements and will be for the legitimate purposes of the membership.

5.7 Privacy

GSF is committed to protecting the privacy and personal data of its members. GSF does not provide member specific data to external partners unless prior written permission is granted by the member, except for general information that is already disclosed and available in the public domain (such as organisation logo, name of CEO/Founder, countries of operation, total schools in network/portfolio,

number of students in network/portfolio, hyperlink to member's website). GSF reserves the right to share fully anonymised data collected through the Annual Census. Please see GSF's [Privacy Notice](#) for more information.

5.8 Liability

GSF does not take responsibility for the actions of members or any of its affiliates, directors, officers, employees or agents (the "**Operators**"). GSF shall not be liable for any claim, demand, action, liability, damages, cost, loss or expense arising from any actions of the Operators (including, without limitation, legal fees, costs and expenses). Membership of GSF is not necessarily an endorsement of an organisation.

GSF has zero tolerance for corruption, discrimination, and mistreatment of staff and students. If GSF is notified of such activities, or other behaviours and situations that raise concerns, in member organisations the GSF Board would take immediate recourse. If any behaviour or action of a GSF member brings GSF into disrepute, the GSF Board will take the necessary steps to protect the reputation and work of GSF.

5.9 GSF representation

GSF will be a voice for the non-state sector within global discussions and with global stakeholders. GSF will use knowledge gained from its membership to inform these discussions, providing a perspective that reflects the heterogeneity of the non-state sector.

However, GSF is not a trade association, and does not represent individual members. Member organisations cannot refer to GSF in the event of a conflict with other members, and the expectation is that the GSF name would not be used beyond what can be reasonably expected.

5.10 Updates to this document

GSF will regularly review this document and update it as the organisation grows and develops.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

In signing this agreement, we confirm that we wish to become members of GSF, meet all the requirements for membership, and are committed to the membership terms and conditions stated above. We wish to participate, share, learn and collaborate with others in an open and transparent way to strengthen the non-state education sector through our membership of GSF. We commit to contributing, sharing and learning together with other GSF members.

We will play our part in ensuring all children, regardless of their background, are able to access quality education. We will disclose to GSF any major Child Protection issues that occur during our period of membership.

Name of Organisation applying for membership: _____

Name(s) of Individual Appointees (Typically members of the Senior Management Team):

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____