



THE PARENTS FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION

Historical Background

Way back in the mid-1980s, a group of parents got together to share views on a common educational situation: they were concerned about the educational future of their young children because private Schooling at the time did not offer enough choice to parents.

The solution they arrived at was to set up an independent School financed by the collective effort of the parents.

The idea soon gathered momentum among parents and the response was overwhelming.

Parents found the moral strength needed to realize an idea which at the time was only a desire to do something for the educational development of their children.

The notarial public deed that gave birth to the Foundation was published on the 2nd July, 1988 in the records of Notary Public, Dr. Pierre Attard.

Objectives of the Foundation

The main objectives of the Foundation are, *inter alia*, to raise funds in order to establish private Schools for the purpose of:

- Providing a broad based multilingual education, in a personalized manner aiming at the development of the full person,
- Offering high academic standards in line with national curricula,
- Having a Catholic environment,
- In a physical environment conducive to the above to children of all ages in such number as may be determined.

The Trustees of the Foundation

Mr Frederick Mifsud Bonnici – 1988-2004

Prof. Joseph M Ganado – 1988-2008

Rev. Prof. Peter Serracino Inglott – 1988-2005

Mr James Bonello – 2004-

Prof. Josef Lauri – 2005-

Dr Joseph A Schembri – 2008-

Rules of the Foundation

Apart from the constitutive notarial deed establishing the Foundation, rules are made to ensure consistent application of procedures and to implement policies. Rules are reviewed and updated as needs arise. The Foundation carries out its functions by means of resolutions of the Trustees after consultation with the two Schools; San Anton and San Andrea Schools. The Statute of the Foundation empowered the Trustees to make, amend and interpret the rules of the Foundation.

On the 14th of July 1988, the first Rules and Regulations were approved at general meetings by the parents:

- The Contribution Rules 1988, and
- The Admission Rules 1988.

When San Andrea School opened its doors, the following additional Rules were approved:

- The Contribution (Amendment) Rules. Resolution of all the Trustees of the Parents Foundation for Education dated 11th September 1992
- The Admission Rules (Second School). Resolution of all the Trustees of the Parents Foundation for Education dated 11th September 1992.

A year later, in 1993, these additional Rules came into force:

- The Contribution Rules 1993 **as amended in 2009**
- The Admission Rules 1993
- The Delegation of Functions Rules 1998
- Resolution on Refund of Contributions (San Anton School) 2003

In administering the Rules, every effort is made to apply them correctly. Where doubts arise, the official text prevails.

Contributors are obliged to read and observe the Rules of the Foundation. They should familiarise themselves with all other available material on the Schools and with the aims and systems.

Experience has shown that Contributors in their very great majority are proud to form part of the Foundation and they abide by and respect the Rules. To safeguard the common good of the Foundation and of the Schools, the Foundation is empowered by Rule 18 (d) of the Delegations of Functions Rules 1998 to refuse, suspend or reduce any refund to any Contributors who fail to fulfill their obligations under any applicable Rules of the Foundation and of the Schools.

Aims and Ideals

These are the sub-headings of the leaflet: Aims and Ideals:

1. Parental choice,
2. Parents must choose and not be chosen,
3. The Foundation must not be exclusive,
4. It is a voluntary organization,
5. The Parents Foundation is autonomous,
6. The Parents Foundation for Education and its Schools are to be non-profit making,
7. Capital and current income,
8. Educational aims,
9. The Foundation has a democratic culture,
10. A catalyst for change,
11. The Foundation is outward looking,
12. Scholarships,
13. Ecumenical

A copy of this leaflet can be obtained from the Schools of the Foundation. The contents of this leaflet have largely remained unchanged since the beginning of the Foundation, with the only exception being made to include in it the reference to San Andrea School when this School was instituted.

The Current Position

Two Schools, both at I-Imselliet, are fully operational: San Anton School and San Andrea School. Both offer education from a very early age of the children right up to their teenage years (ages 15/16).

The vision and the principles that served as a catalyst to set up the Foundation in 1988 are as strong today as they were in early days. It is appropriate to reproduce a definition of what the Foundation stands for. This is taken from a write-up found in the website of the San Andrea School:

“The PFE is owned by present contributors and it is an institutional mechanism through which the two Schools are able to receive funds in order to carry out the necessary capital expenditure, the operational expenditure being covered by the fees that the Schools charge. It is a voluntary and totally autonomous organization and is a public institution open to all on an equal opportunity basis. The PFE is not owned by any one or more persons nor controlled by any interests. It is managed by the Trustees. The Schools are separate bodies and are managed each by a School Board. The PFE and its Schools are non-profit making organizations, all their income is invested directly in the fulfillment of the PFE’s aims. Any excess of income over expenditure does not accrue to anyone but is directly re-invested”.
(Quoted from San Andrea School website).

The Contribution

“The PFE’s Schools are committed to the kind of parental involvement that puts into practice the principle that education must be a partnership between home and School, for the ultimate benefit of the children.”

The principle of “a partnership between home and School for the benefit of the children” sums up the whole meaning of the Parents Foundation for Education as a non-profit making voluntary organization.

The Contribution is made to the Foundation to apply in any one of the Schools. It enables the Foundation and the Schools to fund their respective projects for the building of the Schools in accordance with the Statute of the Foundation. The Schools of the Foundation had to support their capital programmes by means of additional financing through bank loans. Accordingly, Contributors are bound by the Rules to keep their Contribution in the system until the bank loans, relative to the building of the Schools, are fully repaid and a programme of refunds is initiated.

What had been set in motion in 1988 needs to be sustained by current and future Contributors. In this way, the Foundation will be in a position to refund Contributions to Parents whose children have completed their Schooling and for the Schools to continue to progress in the years ahead.

In support of this requirement, the Foundation is empowered by the Rules to determine itself when refunds of Contributions are made; and the method of such refunds. Contributions do not bear any interest in favour of the Contributor – Article seven of the Contribution Rules 1988.

No Guarantees

The payment of a Contribution does not imply any guarantees on the part of the Foundation or any School to provide educational facilities for the children registered or any specified type or level of educational facility. However, the Foundation, through the Contributors who are Parents of children wishing to attend the Schools, endeavours to establish and provide such facilities to highest standards possible – Rule 13 of the Contribution Rules 1993.

Contributors’ Obligations

Contributors share in the moral and ethical obligation to act positively as a Contributor participating in the establishment and operation of Schools, for the benefit of the children registered with the Foundation, in line with the Aims and Principles of the Foundation.

The Foundation is synonymous with Parent Contributors and acts only through them. It is not a distinct functional unit, although it has very specific duties. The Foundation and the Trustees are not obliged to provide any services or assistance unless there are Parents willing to take on the respective responsibilities and only through such Parents. Each and every Contributor shares in the responsibility and undertakes to participate when making a Contribution - Rule 14 of the Contribution Rules 1993.

Liability of Foundation

The Foundation is a distinct legal person from the Schools it establishes. The Foundation shall not be liable for any obligations incurred by the Schools in fulfilling their projects, or otherwise.

Queries

Parents seeking to obtain more information on the Foundation and its Schools may do so through the Administration Offices of the respective Schools. Queries requiring particular attention are referred by the Administration Offices of the respective Schools to the Registrar of the Foundation for guidance. In exceptional circumstances, matters are referred to be dealt with by the Trustees of the Foundation.

The Registrar

By time, the functions and duties of the Registrar of the Foundation have become mainly administrative, co-ordinative and regulatory. For this reason, the School where Parents register their children remains the direct channel of contact between Contributors and the Schools/Foundation.

Contribution Refund

By resolution dated 14th May 2003, it was established as a policy, after extensive debates at School Board and Trustees levels, and following consultation with the Parents, that Contribution Refunds, when due for repayment, shall be made on the basis of a list consisting of Contributors whose children no longer attend a School of the Foundation. Each School has its own separate list of such Contributors. The way the two lists are compiled takes the same format as defined in the said Resolution dated 14th May 2003, namely:

1. According to the year when the last child of a family was removed from the official class list of the relative School and
2. Within the same groups, the sequence is established according to the Contribution Number.

At the time of this review (July 2019), the Foundation is effecting refunds to Contributors whose children have completed schooling in San Anton School. This process has reached Contributors whose children have finished schooling last year (2018). The process of refunds to Contributors whose children have attended San Andrea School has started following the Annual General Meeting held by San Andrea School on 28th February 2019 and a resolution by The Trustees on 25th June 2019. The same policy as for San Anton School was adopted. It is relevant to state that San Andrea School, as in the case of San Anton previously, had managed to anticipate the target year set for the commencement of refunds. This had been set for year 2022. Refunds would therefore commence three years in advance. Contributors who are not offered a confirmed place in writing in any of the two Schools of the Foundation and withdraw their registration are refunded their Contribution within a period of about two/three months from the date their request reaches the office of the Registrar.

The Contribution Rules 1993 are amended by the Contribution Amendment Rules, 2009

In 2009, the following clauses were added to the Contribution Rules 2/93.

- Clause 15 - Non-refundable Contribution on registration, and certain administrative provisions regarding receipt of all Contributions.
- Clause 16 - Certain special cases where Contribution becomes refundable immediately subject to an administrative charge.
- ~~Clause 17 - Right to extend the benefit of the Contribution to grandchildren.~~ (Please see **Note** below).
- Clause 18 - Waiver of Contribution requirement – clause relative to expatriates.

The Contribution Rules include also a number of rulings by the Trustees to explain how the Rules are to be interpreted – Reference: The Interpretation clauses at the end of the booklet of the Contribution Rules 1993.

Note:

As of 31st December 2016, the application of this Clause is suspended by the Trustees following a request by San Anton School which was agreed to also by San Andrea School – Meeting of the Trustees held on Thursday 16th June 2016.

Note on the Protection of Personal Data kept in the Registration System for the Admission of Children in the Schools of the Foundation.

The nature of the registration of Contributors and of Children requires the submission and the keeping of personal data during the registration process. It is hereby declared that personal data is given the importance it deserves and the Foundation and its Schools ensure that personal data is kept solely for the administration of the registration system. It is never made use of for any other reasons whatsoever.

The personal data maintained by the system includes such details as Names, Age, Gender, Address and other related information. For example, the release with the Foundation and its Schools of a copy of the birth certificate is an essential requirement.

Any Contributor registering with the Foundation needs to give such data because it is a very important element in the registration system. By reading this note on the protection of data, Contributors are asked to give their consent to the Foundation and to its Schools to the use of the data given, specifically and strictly, for the purpose of administrating the registration system, as regulated by the Aims and Ideals and the Rules of the Parents Foundation for Education.

Personal Data entrusted with the Foundation and its Schools ceases to be of any use to the registration system when Contributors receive the refund of their Contribution. Once refunds are effected, the Foundation and its Schools cancel personal data records that are no longer of any use to the registration system. Contributors regain their right to be “forgotten”.

The Foundation and its Schools commit themselves to hold control over the information which they keep and it can be stated that the personal data of Contributors has always been in safe hands. The Foundation and its Schools will strive to maintain the high standards expected in regard to the keeping and use of personal data of Contributors and their families.

Joseph Bonello
Registrar, Parents Foundation for Education

Reviewed 03rd July 2019