



SHP

Curriculum PATHS

Principled Alternatives for Teaching History in Schools

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Otherwise referred to as the SHP Curriculum PATHS Constitution

These Terms of Reference were discussed, amended and provisionally agreed upon at the Curriculum PATHS Council meeting on 25 September 2023.

They were sent out for approval by the Curriculum PATHS Group on 20 October 2023 and approved on 20 November 2023 with 100% approval from 84 votes cast.

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Final confirmation of Terms of Reference

Agreed by	Date
Curriculum PATHS Council	25 September 2023
Curriculum PATHS Group	20 November 2023
Representative of FSSE: Leeds Trinity University	

Purposes and Aims of Schools History Project Curriculum PATHS

- 1.1. The name of the group is Schools History Project (SHP) Curriculum PATHS (Principled Alternatives for Teaching History in Schools). Also known as 'SHP Curriculum PATHS' or 'Curriculum PATHS'.
- 1.2. SHP Curriculum PATHS was formed by a group of history educators in response to the proposed model curriculum for History and the publication of the Inclusive Britain Strategy in 2022.
- 1.3. SHP Curriculum PATHS aims to enable history teachers to meet the call to “to help pupils understand the intertwined nature of British and global history, and their own place within it” (Inclusive Britain Strategy, 2022, p.29) whilst also recognising that the power to change resides in the community of history educators, rather than a central body.
- 1.4. SHP Curriculum PATHS is founded on the Curriculum PATHS proposal document, circulated in Summer 2022. This document was written after two online meetings of history teachers and other educators who were concerned by the government’s proposed Model Curriculum for History. The Curriculum PATHS proposal highlighted the key drivers for the creation of the Curriculum PATHS project:
 - a. The importance of having a broad, inclusive and well-constructed curriculum for all.
 - b. The professional and ethical problems associated with having a single model curriculum.
 - c. The benefits and limits of a curriculum based purely in the concept of sequencing.
 - d. The professional and ethical benefits of having multiple curriculum models and how these might empower teachers to find solutions for their own settings and contexts by drawing on framework-driven examples of others.
 - e. The moral and academic case for having a framework of ethical principles to drive curriculum decisions – the need to consider purposes which meet the ambitions of the *National Curriculum* but also speak to wider societal needs.
 - f. The ways in which inclusive curricula are a key part of the safeguarding agenda in schools, especially in relation to inclusion and tackling racism.
- 1.5. SHP Curriculum PATHS will build on the work outlined in the original Curriculum PATHS proposal to:
 - a. Recognise and highlight the excellent curriculum-level work being done by history educators in their school contexts.
 - b. Empower teachers by developing a framework of Ethical Principles to support the framing of curricular rationales and guide ethical curriculum development at a departmental level.
 - c. Be accountable to the community by establishing a democratic process for creating, approving, and renewing the Ethical Principles, drawing on expertise from across the sector.
 - d. Provide multiple examples of ‘curriculum paths’ – curriculum constructions rooted in the Ethical Principles.
 - e. Offer suggestions for resourcing to support teachers in adapting ‘curriculum paths’ for their own contexts.
 - f. Develop a network to collect and share these ‘curriculum paths’.
- 1.6. The work of SHP Curriculum PATHS will always be guided by the Ethical Principles formed and agreed upon by the group and in response to the original Curriculum PATHS proposals. This work is ongoing and will continue until such a time as the group is disbanded.



Membership of the SHP Curriculum PATHS Group

- 2.1. SHP Curriculum PATHS is structured into two parts:
 - a. General membership: the SHP Curriculum PATHS Group (CPG)
 - b. A governing body: the SHP Curriculum PATHS Council (CPC)
- 2.2. The Curriculum PATHS Group is an open body and responsible for ratifying and challenging the work of the Curriculum PATHS Council.
- 2.3. Membership of the SHP Curriculum PATHS Group is open to anyone over the age of 18, who is not disbarred from working with children, and either:
 - a. Works, or formerly worked, as a history educator in a school setting, or
 - b. Works, or formally worked, in a field related to history education.
- 2.4. Membership of the SHP Curriculum PATHS Group is confirmed by signing up to the membership list, which includes a declaration of their reasons for joining and fitness to be part of the Curriculum PATHS Group.
 - a. Members must seek to uphold the work of SHP Curriculum PATHS and act within the bounds of proper behaviour under relevant laws when part of the Curriculum PATHS Group.
 - b. Members may not hold multiple memberships, nor vote more than once in any given election or Member Vote.
 - c. Members can relinquish their membership status at any time by contacting the SHP Curriculum PATHS Secretary via email.
 - d. Members can have their membership revoked as outlined in article 2.7.
- 2.5. Membership of the Curriculum PATHS Group will need to be renewed periodically to ensure that members are still active. This is necessary as there is no formal subscription charge for membership. Members who do not respond to the request for renewal within a stated time period will be removed from the membership list.
 - a. Membership renewals will not happen more than once in any calendar year.
 - b. Membership renewal communications must allow at least 30 days for members to respond.
- 2.6. Each member will be able to:
 - a. Respond to calls to feedback from the Curriculum PATHS Council.
 - b. Contact the Curriculum PATHS Council with concerns or questions.
 - c. Vote in Curriculum PATHS Council elections.
 - d. Vote in any Member Votes enacted by the Curriculum PATHS Council.
 - e. Attend general meetings of the wider Curriculum PATHS Group when these are called.
 - f. Join working groups for the Curriculum PATHS Council by agreement.
- 2.7. The Curriculum PATHS Council can terminate a membership, by majority vote, if they consider it to be in the best interests of the group.
 - a. If an application for membership is denied, or a membership is terminated, the Curriculum PATHS Council must inform the applicant of the reasons for their refusal upon request and consider any appeals against the decision.

The Curriculum PATHS Council

- 3.1. The Curriculum PATHS Council is the decision-making body of the wider Curriculum PATHS Group.
- 3.2. The Council comprises nine members across the following sectors:
 - a. Primary Sector (three representatives total)
 - b. Secondary Sector (three representatives total)
 - c. Wider History Education Sector (two representatives total)
 - d. Schools History Project (one representative - unelected)
- 3.3. With the exception of the Schools History Project member, each member of the Council shall serve a term of four years, with half the Council being replaced every two years.



- a. In the first Council, four council members will be randomly selected to serve a term of two years instead of four to allow the electoral system to replace half the Council every two years. No more than 2/3 of any sector will be chosen to serve a shorter term.
- 3.4. The SHP representative for the Council will be chosen by the Director of the Schools History Project and will serve an unlimited term.
- 3.5. A person is eligible for election to the Curriculum PATHS Council if:
- a. They are currently a member of the Curriculum PATHS Group
 - b. They were a member of the Curriculum PATHS Group before the date the election was called.
 - c. They can commit to meeting online at least three times per year.
 - d. They are not currently working for Ofsted, or part of any DfE group working on the model curriculum.
- 3.6. The Curriculum PATHS Council comprises the following named roles:
- a. Chair (elected by majority vote of the Council) – Responsible for:
 - i. Leading the Council.
 - ii. Planning and running Council meetings.
 - iii. Making urgent operational decisions, pending approval by the Council.
 - iv. Acting as a representative for Curriculum PATHS (or nominating a spokesperson from the wider Council to do this work).
 - v. Ensuring both primary and secondary history teacher educators are represented and supported by the work of Curriculum PATHS.
 - vi. Supporting the work of the wider Council.
 - b. Secretary (elected by majority vote of the Council) – Responsible for:
 - i. Maintaining a membership list.
 - ii. Supporting the administration of the organisation including correspondence.
 - iii. Facilitating and supporting Council meetings.
 - iv. Working closely with the Chair to make operational decisions where appropriate.
 - c. Communications Officer (elected by majority vote of the Council) – Responsible for:
 - i. Establishing and maintaining the Curriculum PATHS presence online.
 - ii. Ensuring Curriculum PATHS publications are widely available.
- 3.7. In addition to the named roles, the Curriculum PATHS Council can also form working parties drawn from the Council and co-opted members from the wider Curriculum PATHS Group.
- a. Working parties should have a clear role and report directly to the Curriculum PATHS Council.
 - b. Co-opted members of working parties can vote within those working parties but cannot chair them or vote in Council decisions.
- 3.8. A person can be removed from membership of the Curriculum PATHS Council by majority vote for repeated non-attendance, or if they risk bringing the Council into disrepute.

Election of the Curriculum PATHS Council

- 4.1. With the exception of the SHP representative, the Curriculum PATHS Council will be elected by a sortition system from a self-nominated pool of candidates from the wider Curriculum PATHS Group.
- a. Candidates will need to complete a short application form to confirm their eligibility to serve.
 - b. A nomination period of four weeks will be given.
- 4.2. Candidates must nominate themselves to serve as a representative for one of the following groups:
- a. Primary Sector (3 representatives total)
 - b. Secondary Sector (3 representative total)



- c. Wider History Education Sector (2 representatives total)
- 4.3. The term of office for the Council is four years.
 - 4.4. Elections will be held every two years to replace half of the Council, as determined by their terms of office.
 - a. In the very first Council, four members will be randomly selected to serve shorter, two-year terms to enable this system to work from the outset.
 - 4.5. The Chair of the SHP Curriculum PATHS Council must publish the results of the election to the SHP Curriculum PATHS Group within 7 days of the election.
 - 4.6. If a member of the Council steps down from their post before the end of their term, a by-election will be called to fill the post for the remainder of that term in accordance with the election processes outlined above.

Meetings of the Curriculum PATHS Council

- 5.1. The Curriculum PATHS Council should meet no fewer than three times in the year to make decisions, constitute working groups, or ratify decisions made by the Chair.
 - a. A notice period of four weeks should be given for any meeting.
 - b. Papers for the meeting should be circulated no later than two weeks prior to the meeting.
 - c. Minutes of these meetings should be made publicly available within four weeks of the conclusion of the meeting.
- 5.2. Quorum for the Curriculum PATHS Council is set at 5 members.
- 5.3. Any decisions made in the Council must be ratified by a majority vote.
- 5.4. The chair of the meeting will not normally vote but will be able to cast a deciding vote in the case of a tie.
- 5.5. The agenda and minutes for Curriculum PATHS Council meetings will be shared with the appropriate representative of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Education at Leeds Trinity University.

The Work of the Curriculum PATHS Council

- 6.1. The Curriculum PATHS Council has the following roles:
 - a. To engage in the core work of the wider SHP Curriculum PATHS Group in line with the original Curriculum PATHS proposal
 - b. To define and review a set of ethical principles (the Ethical Principles) to underpin the work of the SHP Curriculum PATHS Group and to ensure these are ratified by the wider group.
 - c. To develop and promote the academic and professional case for having multiple curriculum models rooted in these Ethical Principles.
 - d. To develop processes for the renewal of the Ethical Principles for curriculum construction
 - e. To demonstrate how the Ethical Principles connect with content and pedagogical choices in curriculum construction.
 - f. To demonstrate how the principles can empower teachers in creating their own curriculum models and support teachers in this work.
 - g. To demonstrate how the Ethical Principles might meet the demands of the *Inclusive Britain Report (2022)*.
 - h. To share the Ethical Principles widely to enable schools develop their own curricula.
 - i. To create an online sharing platform to allow Primary and Secondary teachers to share and access multiple curriculum models based on the SHP Curriculum PATHS Ethical Principles.
 - j. To monitor the effectiveness of the SHP Curriculum PATHS Project.
- 6.2. The Curriculum PATHS Council should communicate and consult with the wider Curriculum PATHS Group where possible to seek ideas, feedback and critique.



- 6.3. The Curriculum PATHS Council may call a Member Vote at a given point. This may be to:
- Seek approval of work conducted by the Curriculum PATHS Council
 - Other issues related to the work of SHP Curriculum PATHS
- 6.4. The Curriculum PATHS Council must call a Member Vote to:
- Ratify a change to the Terms of Reference (Constitution) for the Curriculum PATHS Group or Curriculum PATHS Council
 - Ratify a change to the SHP Curriculum PATHS Ethical Principles
- 6.5. All Member Votes will be conducted via the following process:
- Any question put to a Member Vote will only contain two possible options.
 - Each member of the Curriculum PATHS Group will have one vote.
 - For most Member Votes a simple majority will be required to pass an action.
 - Where a change to the Terms of Reference (Constitution) or Ethical Principles is sought, the Member Vote will require a 2/3 majority to pass the change.
 - The outcome of the vote will be binding on the Curriculum PATHS Council
- 6.6. In order to be quorate, the Member Vote must satisfy the following criteria:
- Where a change to the Terms of Reference (Constitution) or Ethical Principles is sought, the Member Vote will require a response from 20% of the membership.
 - In all other cases a response from 10% of the membership is required.

Reporting and Responsibilities

- 7.1. The SHP Curriculum PATHS Council is responsible to the SHP Curriculum PATHS Group and to the Director of the Schools History Project.
- 7.2. SHP Curriculum PATHS is responsible to The Director of SHP and Leeds Trinity University.
- 7.3. A suitable representative from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Education will need to approve the Terms of Reference (Constitution) for Curriculum PATHS.