

THE OXFORD SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

England & Wales · Charity number 1161778

Details

Other names OST

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2015-05-21

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 10 High Street
Wheatley
Oxford
OX33 1XX

Phone 01865421135

Email info@oxfordschoolofthought.org

Website <http://www.oxfordschoolofthought.org>

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE OXFORD SCHOOL OF THOUGHT ARE: TO ADVANCE EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN THE EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF EXISTING EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AND PUBLIC POLICY ON EDUCATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OR ELSEWHERE BY PROMOTING ON A NON-POLITICAL BASIS RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION OF THE SAME AND TO PUBLISH THE USEFUL RESULTS.

Activities: We advance education for the benefit of the public by promoting on a non-political basis the study and discussion of and the exchange and dissemination of information and knowledge concerning the educational and social effects and influences of existing educational systems and other aspects of public policy, in each case whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere in the world.

Classification

- **How:** Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Guernsey
- Isle Of Man
- Jersey
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-01	£0	£1,115	-	-
2024-04-01	£5,000	£1,028	-	-
2023-04-01	£0	£230	-	-
2022-04-01	£0	£4,328	-	-
2021-04-01	£5,000	£167	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
PETER CANSELL	Chair	2017-01-11
Philip Marples		2020-06-14
XANDER CANSELL		2015-06-28

THE OXFORD SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

England & Wales - Charity number 1161778

Accounts

I am pleased to give an outline of the results and activities for the year ended 1 April 2025.

Review of Activities and Achievements

Over the past year OST has continued to gain knowledge, review and renew contacts and strengthening a team of like minded individuals with the experience and drive to change the landscape in

Education moving towards a position where it is best placed to promote the changes needed.

Aims and Objectives

The Oxford School of Thought was founded by educators as a truly independent Primary Education think tank - the first of its kind in the UK - to advance the public exchange of ideas generated and opinions discussed between experts in their field in the world of education. This will include research and much wider distribution and consumption of material. The intention is to have a positive impact on the way that education is delivered, whether state or independent (private). This report highlights the activities and initiatives undertaken by our organisation in the past year , focusing on the future of primary education. Our mission to drive educational innovation, research, and collaboration has been central to these endeavours. We have engaged with leading experts, partnered with respected institutions, and contributed to key discussions shaping the future of education.

Key Activities and Achievements:

□ Following the tragic death of Ruth Perry, who was known to several of our number, and the resulting outcry from many quarters in education for significant changes to, if not abolition of, Ofsted, we felt that we could contribute to a positive way forward.

We embarked upon a revolutionary new perspective for inspection, particularly in the Primary sector. We recognised that one of the failings of the current system was that the inspection framework was based on a subject based secondary model of schooling and the revisions being proposed by Ofsted were not addressing this. We issued a preliminary paper outlining our ideas for a separate and distinct model for Primary Schools which we published on 30/9/24.

We wrote to the Secretary of State for Education in October 2024 outlining our ideas and offering a more detailed report to follow.

We recognised the increasing concerns within the educational community about the inadequacies of the current one-size-fits-all inspection framework, which fails to distinguish between the fundamentally different needs of primary and secondary schools. The proposal argues that primary education should be assessed on its own terms, with a focus on fostering creativity, holistic child development, and community engagement.

In March 2025 our report *Requires Improvement – a new model of Primary inspection*

Key elements of the proposed model include:

- Separate inspection frameworks for primary and secondary schools, reflecting the unique nature of early years and primary education.
- Focus on child and teacher welfare, professional development, and the school's role in the community.
- Action research-based inspections, where inspectors work with schools to evaluate what is effective for their specific context, rather than enforcing uniform standards.
- Improved mental health and morale among educators by removing the punitive aspects of inspections, encouraging a more collaborative and supportive approach.
- A balanced system of accountability, with high-performing schools subjected to lighter inspections and struggling schools receiving targeted support.

This publication will serve as a new reference point for ongoing debates and discussions within the educational community.

- As part of this process we continued our collaboration with Values-Based Education (VBE) and other key stakeholders to critically assess and consider the current position and practices of OFSTED. This collaboration aimed to influence policy and contribute to a more holistic approach to school inspections.
- In October 2024 we responded to the invitation from the Curriculum and Assessment review panel, recommending our previous paper *A Vision For The Future of Primary Education*.
- Throughout the year, we published several newsletters that kept our community informed of

- our activities, upcoming events, and the latest developments in the education sector.
- We conducted a series of interviews with school leaders from various educational settings.
- These interviews provided valuable insights into the challenges and innovations within primary education, informing our future initiatives and reports.

This year has been one of significant progress and impactful initiatives. Our collaborations, research, and events have contributed to the ongoing discourse on the future of primary education. We remain committed to supporting innovation and excellence in education, and we look forward to building on this year's achievements in the coming years.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our partners, collaborators, and supporters who have contributed to our work this year. Together, we are making strides towards a brighter future for primary education.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Oxford School of Thought is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its constitution.

Trustees are recruited for their wide experience and skills to contribute to the achievement and advancement of the Charity's objectives

The following Trustees served throughout the year to 1 April 2025:

Peter Cansell

Alexander Cansell

Philip Marples

Financial Statements

The receipts and payments during the year to 1 April 2025 are shown below.

As at 1 April 2025 The Oxford School of Thought had charitable assets of £3672(2024 £4787).

These assets comprise restricted and unrestricted funds.

The Trustees Report and financial statements were approved by the board on 30th September 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Peter Cansell

Chair of Trustees

30th September 2025

Cranmer House

10 High Street

Wheatley

Oxford OX33 1XX

Balance Sheet

Report launch and administration costs £1115

	1 April 2025	1 April 2024
	£	£
Unrestricted funds: cash at Bank	3672	4787 .
Total Charity Funds	3672	4787 .

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

Peter Cansell

Chair of Trustees

30th September 2025

Cranmer House

10 High Street

Wheatley

Oxford OX33 1XX

THE OXFORD SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

England & Wales - Charity number 1161778

Accounts

I am pleased to give an outline of the results and activities for the year ended 1 April 2024.

Review of Activities and Achievements

Over the past 8 years OST has been gaining knowledge, reviewing and renewing contacts and building a team of like minded individuals with the experience and drive to change the landscape in Education moving towards a position where it is best placed to promote the changes needed.

Aims and Objectives

The Oxford School of Thought was founded by educators as a truly independent Primary Education think tank - the first of its kind in the UK - to advance the public exchange of ideas generated and opinions discussed between experts in their field in the world of education. This will include research and much wider distribution and consumption of material. The intention is to have a positive impact on the way that education is delivered, whether state or independent (private).

This report highlights the activities and initiatives undertaken by our organisation in the past year , focusing on the future of primary education. Our mission to drive educational innovation, research, and collaboration has been central to these endeavours. We have engaged with leading experts, partnered with respected institutions, and contributed to key discussions shaping the future of education.

Key Activities and Achievements

- A comprehensive report was published, exploring emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in primary education. This publication serves as a cornerstone for ongoing debates and discussions within the educational community.
- In response to this report we held a high-profile discussion event, hosted by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). Professor Mick Waters, alongside other esteemed educators, contributed to a vibrant discussion on the future of primary education, sharing insights and best practices.
- In collaboration with Wild Bore, we supported a unique theatre project aimed at promoting literacy and enhancing reading skills among young children. This project included research into the impact of theatre on reading development, culminating in a series of performances and workshops.
- Our organization partnered with Oxford University on a significant research project investigating the long-term effects of young children's transition from intrinsic to extrinsic motivation. The project was encapsulated in a paper, for distribution to schools , offering actionable insights for educators.
- We collaborated with Values-Based Education (VBE) and other key stakeholders to critically assess and consider the current position and practices of OFSTED. This collaboration aimed to influence policy and contribute to a more holistic approach to school inspections.
- Will Shook from Independent English contributed to our online presence with a new blog and vlog series. These publications explored contemporary issues in education, offering thought-provoking content and practical advice for educators and parents based on his experience in teaching in various settings across the world.
- In December, we paid tribute to Sir Tim Brighouse, a pioneering figure in education, who passed away. His contributions to the field have left a lasting legacy, and we honoured his memory through dedicated content and events.

- Throughout the year, we published several newsletters that kept our community informed of our activities, upcoming events, and the latest developments in the education sector.
- We conducted a series of interviews with school leaders from various educational settings. These interviews provided valuable insights into the challenges and innovations within primary education, informing our future initiatives and reports.
 - We visited Summerhill School and The Treehouse School, both renowned for their unique approaches to the curriculum. These schools have pioneered alternative educational practices that prioritize student autonomy and creativity.
 - Our team also visited The Bealings School and Park Community School, state schools recognized for their innovative approaches to education within their communities. These visits offered a deeper understanding of how state schools are adapting to meet the needs of their students in diverse and dynamic ways.

This year has been one of significant progress and impactful initiatives. Our collaborations, research, and events have contributed to the ongoing discourse on the future of primary education. We remain committed to supporting innovation and excellence in education, and we look forward to building on this year's achievements in the coming years.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our partners, collaborators, and supporters who have contributed to our work this year. Together, we are making strides towards a brighter future for primary education.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Oxford School of Thought is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its constitution.

Trustees are recruited for their wide experience and skills to contribute to the achievement and advancement of the Charity's objectives

The following Trustees served throughout the year to 1 April 2024:

Peter Cansell
Alexander Cansell
Philip Marples

Financial Statements

The receipts and payments during the year to 1 April 2024 are shown below.

As at 1 April 2024 The Oxford School of Thought had charitable assets of *£4787(2023 £815). These assets comprise restricted and unrestricted funds.

*The Oxford School of Thought received a donation of £5000 in November 2023 from *The Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust*

The Trustees Report and financial statements were approved by the board on 30th September 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Peter Cansell
Chair of Trustees
30th September 2024

Cranmer House
10 High Street
Wheatley
Oxford OX33 1XX

Balance Sheets

Donation from <i>The Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust</i>	£5000	
Report launch and administration costs	£1028	
	1 April 2024	1 April 2023
	£	£
Unrestricted funds: cash at Bank	4787	<u>815.</u>
Total Charity Funds	<u>4787</u>	<u>815</u>

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Peter Cansell
Chair of Trustees
30th September 2023

Cranmer House
10 High Street
Wheatley
Oxford OX33 1XX

THE OXFORD SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

England & Wales - Charity number 1161778

Accounts

Following the reorganisation. I am pleased to give an outline of the results and activities for the year ended 1 April 2023.

Review of Activities and Achievements

Over the past 7 years OST has been gaining knowledge, reviewing and renewing contacts and building a team of like minded individuals with the experience and drive to change the landscape in Education moving towards a position where it is best placed to promote the changes needed.

Aims and Objectives

The Oxford School of Thought was founded by educators as a truly independent Primary Education think tank - the first of its kind in the UK - to advance the public exchange of ideas generated and opinions discussed between experts in their field in the world of education. This will include research and much wider distribution and consumption of material. The intention is to have a positive impact on the way that education is delivered, whether state or independent (private).

The current situation

Whilst there are numerous education conferences in which some ideas are generated, the majority are for educators, delivered by educators, and the vast majority of attendees are those in senior positions or have the time to spend attending conferences. Speakers and contributors are often uttering warm words of wisdom but achieving very little change. Seldom are policy makers present, few if any parents are invited. Generally, the entire process is inward looking.

For nearly two years the entire education landscape was changed by Covid 19. As entire communities were locked down and schools were closed, the previous accepted ways of educating children has been overturned. The difference in attainment or achievement between the 'have's and have-nots' has increased dramatically this has led many to join the discussion about changing the way we educate children, OST will be at the forefront of this discussion and is preparing a report about the current situation and future possibilities.

Future

This year we have also continued our efforts to influence policy makers. Following the successful rebuild and launch of our website and with the active participation of our extended team and the list of well-known associates who are supporting us, we have recorded a series of live recorded short talks which have been lodged on our website. Speakers have been carefully curated to express views and share knowledge and thinking across education and those who recruit the output from the education processes. The recordings will enable a much wider audience to be informed. We are using our developing links with universities and other research organisations to create evidence-based suggestions for revising approaches to primary education.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Oxford School of Thought is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its constitution.

Trustees are recruited for their wide experience and skills to contribute to the achievement and advancement of the Charity's objectives

The following Trustees served throughout the year to 1 April 2023:

Peter Cansell
Alexander Cansell
Philip Marples

Financial Statements

The receipts and payments during the year to 1 April 2023 are shown below.

As at 1 April 2023 The Oxford School of Thought had charitable assets of £815.24(2022£805.64).
These assets comprise restricted and unrestricted funds.

The Trustees Report and financial statements were approved by the board on 30th September 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Peter Cansell
Chair of Trustees
30th September 2023

Cranmer House
10 High Street
Wheatley
Oxford OX33 1XX

Balance Sheets

	1 April 2022 £	1 April 2021 £
Unrestricted funds: cash at Bank	815.24	<u>805.64</u>
Total Charity Funds	<u>815.24</u>	<u>805.64</u>

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Peter Cansell
Chair of Trustees
30th September 2023

Cranmer House
10 High Street
Wheatley
Oxford OX33 1XX

THE OXFORD SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

England & Wales - Charity number 1161778

Accounts

Following the decision last year to energise the organisation following four years of preparation. I am pleased to give an outline of the results and activities for the year ended 1 April 2022.

Review of Activities and Achievements

Over the past 6 years OST has been gaining knowledge, reviewing and renewing contacts and building a team of like minded individuals with the experience and drive to change the landscape in Education moving towards a position where it is best placed to promote the changes needed. Since March 2021 OST has been supporting the arrangements for the revised live iteration of the Oxfordshire Headteachers' (now School Leaders') Conference.

Aims and Objectives

The Oxford School of Thought was founded by educators as a truly independent Primary Education think tank - the first of its kind in the UK - to advance the public exchange of ideas generated and opinions discussed between experts in their field in the world of education. This will include research and much wider distribution and consumption of material. The intention is to have a positive impact on the way that education is delivered, whether state or independent (private).

The current situation

Whilst there are numerous education conferences in which some ideas are generated, the majority are for educators, delivered by educators, and the vast majority of attendees are those in senior positions or have the time to spend attending conferences. Speakers and contributors are often uttering warm words of wisdom but achieving very little change. Seldom are policy makers present, few if any parents are invited. Generally, the entire process is inward looking.

For nearly two years the entire education landscape was changed by Covid 19. As entire communities were locked down and schools were closed, the previous accepted ways of educating children has been overturned. The difference in attainment or achievement between the 'have's and have-nots' has increased dramatically this has led many to join the discussion about changing the way we educate children, OST will be at the forefront of this discussion and is preparing a report about the current situation and future possibilities.

Future

This year we have also continued our efforts to influence policy makers. Following the successful rebuild and launch of our website and with the active participation of our extended team and the list of well-known associates who are supporting us, we have recorded a series of live recorded short talks which have been lodged on our website. Speakers have been carefully curated to express views and share knowledge and thinking across

education and those who recruit the output from the education processes. The recordings will enable a much wider audience to be informed. We are using our developing links with universities and other research organisations to create evidence-based suggestions for revising approaches to primary education.

Oxford School of Thought became the facilitating body for the management of the Oxfordshire Headteachers' Conference for 2022.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Oxford School of Thought is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its constitution.

Trustees are recruited for their wide experience and skills to contribute to the achievement and advancement of the Charity's objectives

The following Trustees served throughout the year to 1 April 2022:

Peter Cansell
Alexander Cansell
Philip Marples

Financial Statements

The receipts and payments during the year to 1 April 2022 are shown below.

As at 1 April 2022 The Oxford School of Thought had charitable assets of £805.64(2021 £166.54). These assets comprise restricted and unrestricted funds.

The Trustees Report and financial statements were approved by the board on 30th September 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Peter Cansell
Chair of Trustees
30th September 2022

Cranmer House
10 High Street
Wheatley
Oxford OX33 1XX

Receipts and payments year ending 1 April 2022

Contribution towards costs of OSLC conference 2022 Nil
(2021: £5000)

Administration costs to prepare for OHTC Conference 22 £4327.82
(2021: £166.54)

Balance Sheets

	1 April 2022 £	1 April 2021 £
Unrestricted funds: cash at Bank	<u>805.64</u>	<u>5133.46</u>
Total Charity Funds	<u>805.64</u>	<u>5133.46</u>

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Peter Cansell
Chair of Trustees
30th September 2022

Cranmer House
10 High Street
Wheatley
Oxford OX33 1XX

THE OXFORD SCHOOL OF THOUGHT

England & Wales - Charity number 1161778

Accounts

The Oxford School of Thought (A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 1 April 2021

Charity number: 1161778
Date of registration: 21 March 2015

Cranmer House
10 High Street
Wheatley
Oxford OX33 1XX

Following the decision last year to energise the organisation following four years of preparation. I am pleased to give an outline of the results and activities for the year ended 1 April 2021.

Review of Activities and Achievements

Over the past 5 years OST has been gaining knowledge, reviewing and renewing contacts and building a team of likeminded individuals with the experience and drive to change the landscape in Education moving towards a position where it is best placed to promote the changes needed. Since March OST has been actively planning the generation of open public debate in a new way which will lead to innovation and advancement in educational practice that will improve the lives of all.

Aims and Objectives

The Oxford School of Thought was founded by educators as a truly independent Primary Education think tank - the first of its kind in the UK - to advance the public exchange of ideas generated and opinions discussed between experts in their field in the world of education. This will include research and much wider distribution and consumption of material. The intention is to have a positive impact on the way that education is delivered, whether state or independent (private).

The current situation

Whilst there are numerous education conferences in which some ideas are generated, the majority are for educators, delivered by educators, and the vast majority of attendees are those in senior positions or have the time to spend attending conferences. Speakers and contributors are often uttering warm words of wisdom but achieving very little change. Seldom are policy makers present, few if any parents are invited. Generally, the entire process is inward looking.

For nearly two years the entire education landscape has changed by Covid 19. As entire communities have locked down and schools been closed, the previous accepted ways of educating children has been overturned. The difference in attainment or achievement between the 'have's and have-nots'

The Oxford School of Thought (A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 1 April 2021

has increased dramatically this has led many to join the discussion about changing the way we educate children, OST will be at the forefront of this discussion.

Future

This year has marked the beginning of our substantial efforts to influence policy makers. Following the successful rebuild and launch of our website and with the active participation of our extended team and the list of well-known associates who are supporting us, we have recorded a series of live recorded short talks which have been lodged on our website. Speakers have been carefully curated to express views and share knowledge and thinking across education and those who recruit the output from the education processes. The recordings will enable a much wider audience to be informed. We plan to use our developing links with universities and other research organisations to create evidence-based suggestions for revising approaches to primary education.

Discussions have taken place for Oxford School of Thought to become the facilitating body for the management of the Oxfordshire Headteachers' Conference for the coming year.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Oxford School of Thought is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its constitution.

Trustees are recruited for their wide experience and skills to contribute to the achievement and advancement of the Charity's objectives

The following Trustees served throughout the year to 1 April 2021:

Peter Cansell

Alexander Cansell

On 14 June 2020 Mr Philip Marples was appointed as a Trustee. Philip Marples is a highly respected Headteacher, writer and conference organiser and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board.

Financial Statements

The receipts and payments during the year to 1 April 2021 are shown below. (2020: nil).

As at 1 April 2021 The Oxford School of Thought had charitable assets of £5133.46 (2019 £300). These assets comprise restricted and unrestricted funds.

The Trustees Report and financial statements were approved by the board on 30th September 2021.

The Oxford School of Thought (A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 1 April 2021

Signed on behalf of the Trustees



Peter Cansell
Chair of Trustees
30th September 2021

Cranmer House
10 High Street
Wheatley
Oxford OX33 1XX

Receipts and payments year ending 1 April 2021

Contribution towards costs of OHTC conference 21 (2020: nil)	5000
Administration costs to prepare for OHTC Conference 21 (2020: nil)	166.54

Balance Sheets

	1 April 2021 £	1 April 2020 £
Unrestricted funds: cash at Bank	<u>5133.46</u>	<u>300</u>
Total Charity Funds	<u>5133.46</u>	<u>300</u>

As at 1 April 2020 The Oxford School of Thought had charitable assets of £300 (2019 £300). These assets comprise unrestricted funds.

The Trustees Report and financial statements were approved by the board on 30th September 2021.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

The Oxford School of Thought (A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Annual Report and Financial Statements
Year ended 1 April 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Cansell', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Peter Cansell
Chair of Trustees
30th September 2020

Cranmer House
10 High Street
Wheatley
Oxford OX33 1XX