

Greenfields School - 287037

**BACKGROUND NOTE FOR FILE**

The Trust applied for registration in 1982. We asked whether the school would be run on any particular principles.

These testimonials were to demonstrate that the Hubbard method was used in *"schools, colleges and educational establishments all over the world"* The bundle of papers headed *"Extracts from proofs of book on Study Technology ..."* also contain testimonials from professionals and a parent but there is no proof of the independence of the writers. Following this we asked the plain question *"are we correct in assuming that the school is not connected in any way with the Church of Scientology. or the Scientology movement?"* The response in icl 7.12.82 states that *"there are no financial, legal or corporate ties of dependence or control between Greenfields School and the Church of Scientology"* We then invited registration of the trust and this was effected in 1983, the trust having the following objects:

(a) *to establish maintain and carry on as an educational charity a school to be known as "Greenfields School" ...*

(b) *to provide therein for the education of boys and girls of all ages"*

The next interesting exchange of correspondence on the A/1 starts with icl 14.8.84 from questioning the registration of the trust in view of its connection with Scientology. You will note from our reply dated 29.8.84 that we *"saw no reason to refuse registration"* since the organisation had exclusively charitable objects.

There is some interesting correspondence in 1987 which surrounds the removal of a pupil at the school. makes allegations as to the role of the Church of Scientology in the running of the school – pupils being expelled because their parents are no longer Scientologists. The allegations were totally refuted by the trustees – icl 14.10.87. In a document headed *"Response by the Board of Trustees of Greenfields School"* in response to the allegations, at page 14, it is repeated that there are no legal or corporate ties between Greenfields School and the Church of Scientology. It did go on to say that all of the trustees were Scientologists and that 88% of the pupils (123 of 140) were from *"families with some connection or other with the Church"* Because the Schools uses Mr Hubbard's teachings they are obliged to pay to reprint and quote his works. The copyright is owned by a Church of

Scientology organisation. Page 15 states that "*The Board considers this license essential for the achievement of the objects of the schools as Greenfields could not effectively be promoted without it*" There is no conclusion on file relating to this episode. The only possible clue as to our view seems to be in an undated handwritten minute from \_\_\_\_\_ in which she says"

There

is no trace of a formal reply along these lines though.

# Memorandum of Telephone Call

<b>Name of caller:</b>		<b>Date of call:</b>	1.8.02
<b>Address of caller:</b>			
<b>Telephone number:</b>		<b>Time of call:</b>	
<b>Charity name:</b>	Greenfields Educational Trust	<b>Charity number:</b>	287037
<b>Organisation name:</b>		<b>Case number:</b>	-
<b>Registered file number:</b>		<b>Call taken by:</b>	

## Message:

I rang [redacted] to clarify the ownership of Greenfields School. [redacted] was on leave but her colleague, [redacted] said she would get the file up and ring me back.

[redacted] confirmed that the proprietor is Greenfields Educational Trust but the comments box on the file stated it was a "Scientology School". I asked for clarification of this and was told that the comment was made by the ISC (Independent Schools Council). The ISC last visited the School on 25.5.99 and it was due another visit soon. The report said that the School was co-educational and multi faith but noted that approx 80% of pupils were from Scientology families. [redacted] suggested I ring the ISC [redacted] and ask for a copy of the report. (The LEA no for the School is 845).

I rang the ISC but was told I would have to ask the School for a copy of the report.

## Action taken:

**Name:**

**Date:**

## Memorandum

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**To:** \_\_\_\_\_ **cc:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**From:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Room:** 301  
**Tel:** Taunton 5020 **Fax:** 5425  
**Date:** 2 July 2002

**Subject:** Greenfields Educational Trust - 287037

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For what it's worth, here are my thoughts on the Greenfields Educational Trust case. Make of them what you will!

- This case was referred to us on the basis that the school is clearly associated with the principles of L Ron Hubbard's educational theories and that, given the unproven public benefit to be derived from those theories, the charitable status of the school should be reviewed.
- The school has made it clear that it does not promote L Ron Hubbard's teachings in respect of Scientology nor do they teach his 'religious' philosophies. The school does, however, utilise his work on education.
- The school does not actually say that it promotes L Ron Hubbard's educational theories (ie in the sense that it seeks to promote and promulgate them outside of the school environment) but (according to the proposed new objects) that it will make "full and proper use" of those of L Ron Hubbard's writings and theories that are relevant to education to "facilitate the teaching and delivery of all subjects" at the school.
- I agree that reference in the proposed new objects to "numerous written and spoken works of the author and philosopher Lafayette Ron Hubbard (the Hubbard writing) relevant to the field of education)" might be considered too vague and uncertain to be accepted as a charitable purpose (although this would nonetheless be in pursuance of the overriding purpose of advancing education). \_\_\_\_\_ has recommended that we do not accept the proposed new objects we can only review the charity on the basis of its current objects, which are:
  - a) to establish maintain and carry on as an educational charity a school to be known as "Greenfields School" at Hammerwood in East Sussex or at such other place or places in England as may from time to time seem expedient or desirable;
  - b) to provide therein for the education of boys and girls of all ages."
- Whatever the worth (proven or not proven) of L Ron Hubbard's educational theories there seems to be clear evidence to show that the school meets the standards required by the educational authority – this must, therefore, indicate a sufficient degree of public benefit from the education provided by the school.
- It is difficult (on the face of it) to see how the use by the school of L Ron Hubbard's educational theories differs from the advancement of education in accordance with either particular religious doctrines (as in the case of say RC, CofE, Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist etc schools) or, more particularly in accordance with other educational theories and methods. There are numerous charities on the register with objects to advance education in accordance with the teachings,

## Memorandum

philosophies or methods of the late Dr Rudolf Steiner and the late Dr Maria Montessori, for example. It may be the case that the Steiner and Montessori teaching methods have an established proven worth in a way that L Ron Hubbard's teaching methods do not – in which case it would be possible to make a valid distinction between those charities and Greenfields. If not, then it is difficult to see how we could make a valid distinction between them when determining charitable status and public benefit.

In the Greenfields case the charity is not so much propagating L Ron Hubbard's beliefs and teachings as using his educational theories in the context of teaching subjects based upon the National Curriculum to a standard which is acceptable to the local Education Authority. It is difficult, therefore, to see how benefit to the public from this cannot be demonstrated nor that this is obviously different from other 'special schools' such as the Steiner and Montessori schools on the register which utilise particular teaching methods. Indeed it appears from the letter of 27 May from the charity that they also use other teaching methods at the school, including Montessori. Provided the school is achieving good results by using L Ron Hubbard's teaching methods and others on what basis could we take issue with it?

- What is of more concern to me is the fact that Greenfields is listed as a "Scientology" school, the proprietor of which is the Church of Scientology, since the charity informed us that it has no links with Scientology and that it is concerned only with L Ron Hubbard's educational theories and not L Ron Hubbard's teachings in respect of Scientology nor his 'religious' philosophies. If that is the case, why then is it listed as a Scientology school? Why also do the trustees in 1987 in the document entitled "Response by the Board of Trustees of Greenfields School" (to which you refer in the background note on file) respond to allegations

that pupils are expelled when the parents are no longer Scientologists, that "there are no legal or corporate ties between Greenfields School and the Church of Scientology"? That Response also stated that all the trustees were Scientologists and that 88% of pupils were from "families with some connection or other with the Church". To say then that the school is concerned only with L Ron Hubbard's educational theories and not his teachings in respect of Scientology seems disingenuous at best and downright misleading at worst. This is something that we do not appear to have pursued at the time but I think is something that we should pursue now.

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Email: [Maureen.Murphy@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Maureen.Murphy@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk)

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 25 October 2002

**Greenfields Educational Trust - 287037**

I refer to our telephone conversation earlier today. I apologise for the delay in letting you have a substantive reply.

Under section 64(2) of the Charities Act 1993, a charitable company needs our written consent before passing resolutions that make alterations to:

- the objects clause, contained in the memorandum of association; or
- any other provision of the memorandum or articles of association which directs or restricts the manner in which the property of the company is used or applied.

The Trust now wishes to change its objects to read:

- “(a) to establish, maintain and operate schools and other educational establishments at such place or places in the United Kingdom as may from time to time seem expedient or desirable;
- (b) to assist others to establish maintain and operate schools and other educational establishments in the United Kingdom and elsewhere”

I also note that Clause 4 of the Memorandum has been altered and added to.

This letter may be taken as the Charity Commissioners prior written consent under section 64 of the Charities Act 1993 to these proposed amendments to clauses 3 and 4 of the Memorandum of Association.

As the Directors have revised clause 4, I would suggest that they also take this opportunity to update clause 4 (6) so that it reflects our current suggested wording:

“of the usual professional charges for business done by any trustee who is a solicitor, accountant or other person engaged in a profession, or by any partner of his or hers when instructed by the Trust to act in a professional capacity on its behalf: Provided that at no time shall a majority of the trustees benefit under this provision and that a trustee shall withdraw from any meeting at which his or her appointment or remuneration, or that of his or her partner is under discussion.”

If the trustees are happy to accept this suggested wording then, provided it is in exactly the same form as above, this letter may be taken as our prior written consent to that alteration.

In order to keep our Register of Charities up-to-date the Directors will need to submit a certified copy of the resolution passed together with a copy of the minutes of the meeting at which the resolution was passed and a copy of the revised Memorandum and Articles of Association. These can be sent to me at the above address.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

## FILE NOTE

Spoke to [redacted] I explained that I had the files back from [redacted] and that we could give S64 consent. As there is a trustee meeting next week there is some urgency and I said I would be willing to send out the consent letter. [redacted] said that he was moving sections next week. In the circumstances, I said I would keep the case on until resolutions received.

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Spoke to [redacted] re form of letter for S64 consent since I wanted to suggest that professional charging clause be brought up-to-date. We agreed that we would accept revised cl 4 without the updated clause since it was in the original Memorandum and that I could suggest standard wording and say that consent would apply provided that the exact wording was used.

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Note copy ogl 13.10.02 on KD file giving S64 consent to revision of clause 4. No trace of resolutions received either on files or CMS.

25.10.02



## **DETERMINING CHARITABLE STATUS**

### **STEP 1 – DEFINE THE PURPOSE OF THE ORGANISATION**

The purpose of the organisation is to advance the education of children

### **STEP 2 – DETERMINE WHETHER THE PURPOSE OF THE ORGANISATION IS CHARITABLE**

The advancement of education is charitable and the provision and maintenance of a school, open to all, is charitable

### **STEP 3 – DETERMINE WHETHER WHAT THE ORGANISATION DOES IS CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING THAT PURPOSE**

Yes, the school that meets the standards of the National Curriculum; it has been inspected by DoE, Independent Schools Association and, presumably, the LEA.

### **STEP 4 – DETERMINE THE DEGREE OF BENEFIT TO THE PUBLIC – ASSESSING POISE**

The organisation meets the test of public benefit insofar as it is open to all children irrespective of creed in principle. In practice, the school is based in East Grinstead which is the base of UK Scientology and therefore would serve the needs of the local Scientology community. We have been told that Scientology is not promoted at the school.

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Email: [Maureen.Murphy@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Maureen.Murphy@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk)

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 20 January 2003

**Greenfields Educational Trust - 287037**

Thank you for your letter dated 20 December enclosing a copy of the Special Resolution and a revised copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association. To complete our records, would you please also send me a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2002 at which the resolution was passed (or relevant extract).

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Email: [Maureen.Murphy@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Maureen.Murphy@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk)

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 24 March 2003

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**Greenfields Educational Trust - 287037**

Thank you for your letter dated 21 March enclosing a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2002.

I have updated the charity's entry in the Central Register and enclose a copy of that entry for your information. Please check this and let me know if there are any inaccuracies or omissions.

Please note that the Central Register of Charities is open to the public and the details in the print-out will be open to public inspection as will the charity's governing document, any documents effecting changes to the governing document and copies of its accounts (if available).

Charity trustees have a legal obligation, under section 3(7) of the Charities Act 1993, to keep us informed of any changes to this register entry or to their charity's trusts, and supply us with details of the change. It is important for both donors and beneficiaries of charities that the details in the Central Register are kept up to date. To ensure that this is done on a regular basis, we will be writing to all registered charities each year, asking trustees to confirm or update their charity's registered details.

Yours sincerely