



the british  
psychological society  
promoting excellence in psychology



## STATEMENT

# Memorandum of Cooperation between the British Psychological Society and the Association for Teachers of Psychology

## 1. PARTIES INVOLVED

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The British Psychological Society (hereafter referred to as 'BPS') and the Association for Teachers of Psychology (hereafter referred to as 'ATP').

## 2. PURPOSE

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The purpose of this MoU is to provide a framework for the collaboration, which sets out the ways in which we will work together, our intended outcomes and review our areas of common interest.

## 3. SCOPE

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Both organisations will engage in regular communications, usually between the Director of Membership and Professional Development, BPS and The Chair of the ATP, (or nominated representatives) to monitor the progress of any agreed outputs or objectives.

This agreement will be reviewed annually to reflect the priority areas for collaboration and review any additional areas for collaborative work.

This agreement does not preclude partnerships with any other organisations.

## 4. TIME PERIOD

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This agreement will be subject to a 3-yearly formal review, with agreement to at least 6 months' notice of ending. Informal annual monitoring of the MoU will be undertaken via regular scheduled meetings by the two parties.

## 5. BACKGROUND

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### 5.1 THE BRITISH PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The British Psychological Society, incorporated by Royal Charter, is the learned society and professional body for psychology and psychologists in the United Kingdom. The BPS is a registered charity with a total membership in excess of 60,000.

Under its Royal Charter, the objective of the British Psychological Society is 'to promote the advancement and diffusion of the knowledge of psychology pure and applied and especially to promote the efficiency and usefulness of members by setting up a high standard of professional education and knowledge'. The BPS is committed to providing and disseminating evidence-based expertise and advice, engaging with policy and decision makers, and promoting the

highest standards in learning and teaching, professional practice and research. The British Psychological Society is an examining body granting certificates and diplomas in specialist areas of professional applied psychology.

## 5.2 ASSOCIATION FOR TEACHERS OF PSYCHOLOGY

The ATP, originally formed in November 1970, is a growing professional association for all psychology teachers. Our members are generally school and college teachers who teach psychology at various levels. In the main this is A level, but includes GCSE, BTEC and IB however, many psychology teachers are also teaching psychology topics on other qualifications such as criminology, health and social care and PSHE. In addition, we have strong links with ATP Scotland and attract many members who are university lecturers and academic showing the growing diversifications of the Association.

Today's ATP/ATPS are a not-for-profit organisation whose motto is 'for the teacher by the teacher' and our main aim is to offer real time support and guidance to our members when needed and to represent them on a number of professional related boards and associations such as the BPS. There are growing links with our sister organisation, EFPTA and we have recently attracted members from other international countries such as Iceland.

## 6. PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE

The BPS is a member led organisation and is governed by a representative Board of Trustees. The BPS charity registration number is 229642. The BPS is governed by its Royal Charter, which can be found at <https://www.bps.org.uk/about-us/how-we-work>. The BPS has four strategic boards: Member Board, Research Board, Education and Training Board and Practice Board. This MoU will predominantly be overseen within the auspices of the Education and Training Board which also has key links to the Division of Academic Researchers Teachers and Practitioners.

Anyone can apply to be a member of the ATP (and ATP Scotland), though specific applications have to be made to be a member of the ATP committee. This is done by making an application before or during Conference and selection is completed at the AGM, which is held at Conference each year. In addition, a further two members can be seconded onto committee if they have specific skills that committee agree are valuable to the association. The committee comprises 13 members, 4 officers and 9 general members all of whom are or have been psychology teachers or lecturers. The officers consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and the remaining nine general members may also have some specific roles to carry out such as assisting with Conference or being part of the website/social media team or membership teams.

Committee members will represent the ATP members on academic and professional boards such as the BPS committees; SCoPESC, DARTP and ETB. In addition we have members, including the current Chair, who are committee members of EFPTA (European Federation of Psychology Teachers Association) committee. Of course, it should be noted that some Committee members have close working relationships with the awarding bodies.

The partnership between the BPS and the ATP is governed by the structure stated above and managed by the Director of Membership and Professional Development for the BPS and the Chair of the ATP or a specifically agreed nominated committee member.

Representatives from the management teams agree to meet twice per year, outside of any agreed specific working group meetings. Meetings may take place either face to face or by other electronic means e.g. telephone or Skype.

Any financial responsibility for attendance at the meeting will be met by the individual organisation being represented.

## 7. COMMON AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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### 7.1 SUPPORTING PRE UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGY TEACHERS

Both parties agree to collaborate to support pre-university teachers. The parties agree to work on joint initiatives to share knowledge and create opportunities for continuous professional development for psychology teachers. This includes but is not limited to creating shared resources (including continuing to promote the Teachers Toolkit), hosting shared events and building professional networks through a reciprocal membership agreement.

BPS will offer a 50 per cent discount on its e-subscriber membership reducing this to £6 per year for ATP members who can provide evidence of their ATP membership at the point of application to the BPS. This arrangement will be reviewed annually and in line with new member grades as these are introduced.

Both parties will work together to engage with examining and awarding bodies to ensure that curriculum specifications cover the appropriate breadth and depth of curriculum to prepare learners for a variety of further study and employment options, particularly in relation to those wishing to pursue a career in psychology.

Both parties will work together to lobby for funding and recognition for psychology teacher training to ensure it is viewed as a specialist STEM subject.

### 7.2 ADVANCING PRE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

- a Both parties, through the appropriate committees and representation, will work together to position psychology as a STEM subject.
- b Both parties will continue to further build relationships with schools and colleges, co-creating and disseminating careers advice and guidance and co-hosting events to support career progression and transition into further and higher education.
- c Both parties will work closely to explore ways to foster better working relationships between university accredited programmes and their local school and FE partners to bridge the gap between educational levels within the discipline through delivery of a range of initiatives, including the development of a student representative network.

### 7.3 SUPPORTING PRE UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

- a Both parties will work closely to consider initiatives to engage proactively with both school and further education students through digital platforms, outreach, events and resources.
- b Both parties will work closely with ATP to develop a free and inclusive membership offer for A level and higher students to support the delivery of its outreach aims to a broad and diverse audience.

## 8. COMMON PRINCIPLES

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The BPS is a not for profit organisation. The ATP is not for profit organisation

Both parties agree to a set of principles, which will inform the process of partnership.

We agree to:

- a Work together in an open, co-operative and collaborative manner to support the areas of collaboration.
- b Ensure sufficient and appropriately qualified resources are made available in a timely manner to fulfil each organisation's commitment to the above objectives.
- c Share information in a regular and transparent way.
- d Take appropriate action if there are any difficulties in meeting the responsibilities outlined in this MoU.
- e Ensure the confidentiality of any information and/or discussions associated with this MoU.
- f Adhere to the requirements of all current legislation including data protection, freedom of information and copyright law.
- g Always act in the spirit of partnership for all activity associated with this MoU.

## 9. CONFIDENTIALITY AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

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- a There is an obligation under common law to treat personal information held by the parties as private and confidential because it has been disclosed for a strictly limited purpose.
- b Each Party agrees to treat as confidential, and to continue in perpetuity to treat as confidential upon termination of this agreement, information relating to the other Party's technology, technical processes, business affairs, finances, employees or officers or confidential information relating to other individuals obtained in the course of delivering the MOU.
- c Both Parties shall co-operate with each other in handling and disposing of requests made to either of them under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Society reserves the right to withhold information as it sees fit, as the Society is not a public body and is not, therefore, required to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## 10. PUBLICITY

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- a The Parties shall consult with each other before deciding whether to give any publicity to the matters covered by this MOU.
- b Each individual party shall decide whether to publicise matters for which it has primary responsibility under the MoU.

## 11. GDPR

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- a The Parties warrant that they shall comply with and duly observe all their obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998, Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and any legislation and/or regulations implementing them or made in pursuance of them and any associated legislation that arises in connection with the MoU ('Data Protection Requirements').

## 12. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

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- a The Parties may use each other's logos for the purposes of delivering and promoting the objectives specified in the MoU as per clause 10 provided such use be in line with the owner's guidelines. Any other use of the logo or other intellectual property rights will require express permission in writing from the owner.

## 13. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

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- a Where any issues arise both parties agree to work together to resolve these in a partnership approach. If this is not possible, resolution should be sought by escalating to the appropriate governance level within each organisation.

## TERM OF THE MOU

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The start date for the MoU is 01/12/2021 and is valid for a period of three years. The areas of collaboration and objectives may be reviewed and updated accordingly. The MoU may be amended or at any time by mutual consent and by written agreement signed by all parties. The MoU does not form any legal contractual arrangement on behalf of either body.

Signatures – Chairs and CEO