

Learning Together/ Apprenons Ensemble Constitution

Articles of Association of Learning Together

Article 1: Constitution

Those subscribing to the present statutes have founded an association governed by the law of 1st July 1901 and the decree of 16th August 1901 called: **Learning Together/Apprenons Ensemble**

Articles 2: Aims

This Association has for its aims:

The promotion of cultural and linguistic understanding and local community involvement through the participation in local events and the organisation of various activities

Article 3: Registered Office

The registered office will be at the following address: La Mairie, place du Chateau, 87600 Rochechouart.

The registered office can be moved at the decision of the Executive Committee.

Article 4: Duration

The association will operate indefinitely.

Article 5: Composition

In order to be a member of the association it is necessary to complete and application form, then:

- pay any entry fee that may be set by the General Meeting of the members;
- be approved by the Executive Committee or by its officers.

Article 6: Annual Subscriptions

Members will pay an annual subscription to be set by the Executive Committee. Provision may be made for trial or temporary memberships to accommodate the needs of those not living permanently in the Association's catchment area or wishing to try out the Association before committing themselves to full membership.

Article 7: Cessation of membership

Cessation of membership may occur:

- by written resignation addressed to the Executive Committee
- through death
- through expulsion following non-payment of the membership subscription by its due date, or for serious misconduct, subject to the member concerned having had a fair opportunity to offer an explanation.

Article 8: Resources

The resources of the association are made up of:

- the product of the subscriptions and entry fee
- receipts from language training
- subsidies from the State, regions, departments, communes, communeantes de commune or public establishments or authorities should they arise
- monies from exceptional events, interests and dues from assets and funds that it may own as well as remuneration for services rendered and revenues from sales made to members or from any other sources or subsidies that are not contrary to current law

Article 9: Executive Committee

The Association is administered by an Executive Committee of up to ten members elected by the members at an Annual General Meeting. Members of the Executive Committee are elected for two years, half the committee being re-elected each year. The Executive Committee elects from within it a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

In the case of vacancies the Executive Committee may co-opt members to make up its numbers until the following General Meeting.

Any member not less than 16 years old on the day of the General Meeting and whose subscription is up-to-date may stand for election to the Executive Committee. The vote may be held by secret ballot or by show of hands.

Article 10: Meetings of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will meet at least every six months and can be summoned to meet by the Chairman or at the request of two-thirds of its members.

Its decisions are taken by simple majority of those members present. In the case of a tie, the Chairman has the casting vote.

The Chairman represents the Association in all areas of public activity. In particular he is able to go to court in the name of the Association.

The Secretary is responsible for everything relating to correspondence and record-keeping. S/he takes the minutes at meetings at all levels and undertakes all written documentation involved in the work of the Association with the exception of that relating to accountancy. S/he holds the special register provided for in article 5 of the law of 1st July 1901 and articles 6 and 31 of the decree of 16th August 1901.

The Treasurer is responsible for ensuring that the accounts of the Association are kept under his control. Under the general supervision of the officers of the Association, he makes all payments and receives all income due to the Association. He may only make payments from the reserves of the Association with the Executive Committee's approval. He keeps a regular account of all operations he carries out and presents this for approval at the AGM.

In the event of vacancies, the Executive Committee may co-opt to replace its members pending the following AGM. The meetings are minuted.

Article 11: Remuneration

The work of the Executive Committee is on a strictly unpaid voluntary basis as far as the administration of the Association is concerned. The Executive Committee reserves the right to reimburse expenses of its members on request and subject to proofs of expenditure.

Article 12: Annual General Meetings

General Meetings bring together all members of the Association. Any member present aged 16 or over on the date of the meeting and whose subscription is up-to-date may vote at the meeting.

Members are summoned to the meeting with at least 15 days notice before the date fixed. The agenda is included in the summons to attend.

The Annual General Meeting is held once a year under the terms fixed in Article 12 of the present articles of association.

The AGM gives its verdict on:

- the corporate situation of the Association and reports on its activities.
- The financial report (including the year's accounts, which will be independently audited.)
- The onward aims of the Association.

Votes on the different reports take place either by show of hands or by secret ballot, and are carried by simple majority of members in attendance.

The AGM provides for the renewal of membership of the Executive Committee as laid down in Article 9 above.

Minutes of the meeting will be taken, signed by the Chairman and the Secretary.

Article 13: Extraordinary General Meetings

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called for the consideration of important matters in the manner described in Article 12 above by the Executive Committee or at the request of at least one-third of the members of the Association.

Decisions are taken on the basis of a show of hands or by secret ballot, and on the basis of a majority of two-thirds of the members in attendance.

Only an EGM may take decisions modifying the present articles of association. In this, decisions are taken on the basis of a show of hands or by secret ballot, and on the basis of a majority of two-thirds of the members in attendance.

Minutes of the meeting will be taken, signed by the Chairman and the Secretary.

Article 14: Internal Rules of the Association

The Executive Committee can decide to set up internal rules for the Association, which will be submitted to the AGM. The rules will apply to all members of the Association.

Article 15: Dissolution

Dissolution of the Association is pronounced at the request of the Executive Committee at an Extraordinary General Meeting, specially summoned for this purpose in the manner set out in Article 13 above. The vote may be taken by show of hands or by secret ballot and the majority must be at least two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.

In the event of dissolution of the association the Extraordinary General Meeting will designate one or two liquidators to be responsible for liquidating the assets of the association, as laid down in Article 9 of the law of 1st July 1901 and Article 15 of the decree of 16th August 1901.