



The Philosophy
Foundation
THINKING CHANGES

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The Philosophy Foundation's co-founder and co-CEO, Emma Worley has been awarded an MBE in the 2020 New Year Honours list

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London, December 28th, 2019 – Emma Worley has been recognised for her services to innovation.

Emma co-founded The Philosophy Foundation in 2007 (then a social enterprise The Philosophy Shop) and, together with her husband Peter Worley, she leads The Philosophy Foundation in its mission to transform thinking in education.

The Philosophy Foundation believes that reasoning skills developed through philosophical enquiry are an indispensable foundation of all aspects of learning, and that Philosophy, like Maths, Music or Physical Education, is intrinsically worth doing and intrinsically engaging. The Philosophy Foundation's mission is to bring understanding, wisdom and *eudaimonia* to the heart of education for children and adults.

The body is the only charity in the world that specifically employs Philosophy graduates to do Philosophy with children, training Philosophy graduates to be able to do Philosophy in schools from nursery up to 18 using a specific methodology developed over years of practice and research in the classroom.

Truda Spruyt, Chair of Trustees for The Philosophy Foundation, said:

"I'm delighted that Emma has been awarded the MBE and that the work she and The Philosophy Foundation have done to innovate in education has been acknowledged. She has worked tirelessly to bring understanding, wisdom and flourishing to young people. Next on the agenda is bringing philosophy to more people, contributing to innovation in the workplace as well as in schools."

Emma has helped grow the organisation from a one-person start up to a charity that has international recognition, directly reaching over 4,000 beneficiaries every year as well as running sessions in multi-national organisations and local community groups. Over the last couple of years The Philosophy Foundation has expanded to Canada and Europe, and Emma has helped build partnership with new institutions (<https://www.philosophy-foundation.org/partners>) whilst sustaining and growing the work in schools and communities, and other settings in the UK.

The Philosophy Foundation was recognised as one of the top 100 Social Enterprises / Charities in the UK on the SE100 List 2019. Emma's work in developing and sustaining The Philosophy Foundation was recognised when she was named as one of the WISE100 (100 top Women in Social Enterprise) in 2017; she was also highly-commended for her leadership role in the Social Enterprise 100 Awards that year.

In 2018 Emma was made a Visiting Research Associate at King's College London, and was elected as President of SOPHIA: The European Foundation for the Advancement of Philosophy in Schools.



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Emma oversees the strategic development of The Philosophy Foundation, and runs all areas of the charity internally.

Emma also volunteers her time for other charities and non-profits. She is a non-Executive Director of [Thinking Space CIC](#) and is on the Advisory Board for the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science at the LSE, she regularly volunteers for children's charity [Scene and Heard](#) and is on the Advisory Board for the community run Forest Hill Library, where The Philosophy Foundation are based.

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT THE PHILOSOPHY FOUNDATION

The Philosophy Foundation's (TPF) mission is to bring understanding, wisdom and flourishing to the heart of education for children and adults. TPF train philosophy graduates to conduct philosophical enquiry with nursery, primary and secondary school children, older students and adults. Since forming as a social enterprise in 2007 they have worked directly with over 48,000 young people in schools - nursery, primary and secondary - helping them to develop vital cognitive and affective skills that enhance their school work, and their life beyond school. Over 90% of TPF schools have more than the national average of children on free school meals (with 56% of TPF schools having double the national average) and are in areas that serve communities with a wide mix of language and educational needs.

TPF have maintained an average re-contract rate with schools of 91% since 2010 (when they became a charity) - and this year maintained 92% of their schools. This demonstrates the high level of impact and value schools place on their work, as schools pay for it from their own budgets on the whole.

TPF also work in prisons (where a large proportion of the population come from very disadvantaged backgrounds) and community settings with adults and the elderly. They work in some unique settings where education is not straight forward, including: Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital School; Special education needs schools, with looked-after children and with the homeless. In order to support and sustain their charitable work TPF are now running training in philosophical thinking in business.

For more information, please contact Emma Worley, co-CEO, The Philosophy Foundation
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The Philosophy Foundation is a registered charity number 1140338