



POLICY & PRACTICE

A Development Education Review

ISSN: 1748-135X

Focus Articles Guidelines for Authors

About Policy and Practice

Policy and Practice is a peer reviewed, bi-annual, open access journal published by the Centre for Global Education, a non-governmental development organisation based in Belfast. First published in 2005, *Policy and Practice* aims to provide a space for development education (DE) practitioners to critically reflect on their practice, discuss the main challenges faced by the sector and debate new policy developments. Development education provides the critical thinking skills, analysis and participative learning needed to understand the root cause of poverty and inequality and take effective action for a just and sustainable world. *Policy and Practice* aims to: share new research in development education; celebrate and promote good practice in DE; enhance collaboration between development education and related adjectival education sectors; further mainstream development education within the statutory education sector; and provide opportunities for exchange and debate between educators from the global North and South.

Policy and Practice has a designated website (<https://www.developmenteducationreview.com/>) which contains an archive of all previous 42 issues which are available for viewing online and for downloading. The journal is open access so there are no pay walls for users. Each issue addresses a specific theme which is central to development education policy and practice. The journal invites contributions from academics, education practitioners, non-governmental organisations, statutory bodies and civil society groups. The journal boasts an international pool of contributors from Europe, North America and the global South.

The journal is listed on EBSCO, Elsevier, Scopus (H-Index 2) and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

Use of the journal

A review of the number of visitors to the website from January to December 2025 clearly demonstrated the importance and value of online, open access publishing. The journal website

received 293,776 unique visits and 505,211 visits in total. The top ten visitor countries by pages viewed were:

Countries	Number of Pages viewed
United States	304,973
Poland	48,129
Great Britain	30,153
China	26,645
Russian Federation	26,386
India	25,702
Canada	19,883
Japan	10,821
France	9,219
Netherlands	8,983

Since 2005, *Policy and Practice* articles have generated 6,636 citations of which 6,094 were in external journals and 542 were found in other *Policy and Practice* articles. These citations are evidence of the journal's impact on research in the DE sector and contribution to high quality debate. It is also evidence of the journal's interdisciplinary content with citations appearing in a total of 835 journals, 441 books, 503 dissertations and 134 NGO publications. The research on citations in this report was undertaken in April 2026 and shows an increase in the total number of citations of 929 on 2025. Citations represent an important means of measuring the journal's pedagogical impact both sectorally and geographically.

Contributing to the journal

The journal welcomes contributions from researchers and practitioners in all areas of the development education sector. It features in-depth contributions on aspects of development education practice such as methodologies, monitoring and evaluation, the production of resources, enhancing organisational capacity, strategic interventions in education and sectoral practice. It also supports dialogical exchange between authors toward advancing quality discourse in development education and between DE and related, 'adjectival' educations such as human rights, sustainable development, environment education and development studies.

Each issue has a theme which is addressed by three to five peer-reviewed articles (Focus section). The other standing sections in each issue of the journal, including practice-driven articles (Perspectives), opinion pieces (Viewpoint) and resource reviews (Reviews). The call for contributors for the Autumn Issue is announced in March/April with articles submitted in July. The call for contributors for the Spring Issue is announced in September/October with articles submitted in December.

Please note that material submitted for publication should not have been previously published in the same form, nor should it be under consideration for publication elsewhere, unless agreed with the editor of *Policy and Practice*.

Style and Content

1. Focus articles should examine the key debates and issues relating to the main topic. They should provide a critical analysis of the topic they address.
2. Articles should be of a good standard of English. They should provide well-structured arguments and demonstrate a clear understanding of the key issues under discussion. Clear referencing is essential and the author's main arguments should always be strengthened with empirical evidence and/or support from relevant literature.
3. The use of contested concepts and disputed terminology, where it cannot be avoided, should be empirically supported within the text.
4. Authors should be aware that reviewers and readers will better understand your arguments if they are presented simply and concisely. Short sentences and paragraphs, within a clear and minimal structure, are best suited to electronic publications.
5. Authors should ensure consistency in style and format, which allows for a smoother editorial process.

Editorial Process

The flow of a Focus article, from author to publication, is typically as follows:

1. An author submits a completed abstract submission **Form** including an article summary of no more than 300 words which outlines its structure and theme. This is reviewed by the editor and, if accepted, a deadline for submission of the article is agreed with the author.
2. Once received, the article is reviewed by the editor and sent out anonymously to an external reader for peer review.
3. The reader's comments and recommendation for publication are sent to the author, who is then given time to complete any necessary revisions. Note that this may involve more than one redraft and the article will only be processed for publication when the author, editor and reader are satisfied with the content.
4. The article is edited and put into the house layout and format style for *Policy and Practice*.
5. The issue is sent to an external proof reader before being processed for publication.
6. The final approved article is published on the *Policy and Practice* website in an open access format.

Word Count

Your article should be between 3,500 and 6,000 words in length, including all references and abstracts. Due to these restrictions, we suggest that authors' concentrate on developing main arguments, avoiding long descriptive introductions.

Authors should also take into account that bulleted lists and quotations will take up more space than normal text and should be avoided.

Please ensure to include an abstract of around 250-300 words, and up to five key words.

Please also include a biography at the end of the article, following references. Due to word count restrictions, we recommend biographies do not exceed 200 words.

You will be required to edit your article for length if it strays excessively from the guidelines provided.

Formatting

Please submit your article in MS Word Times New Roman font size 12. Text should be double-spaced on single side A4 paper with page numbers clearly marked at the bottom of each sheet. Please use a double space after full stops.

Please avoid heavily formatting your article (complicated justification or indents etc.) We only ask that you set out quotations longer than thirty-five words in a free-standing indented block. Please use single quotation marks for short quotes within the body of the text and double quotation marks for the longer quotations of more than 35 words in the free-standing indented block.

Once finalised, articles will be formatted in the house style.

Citations Format

Policy and Practice uses the Harvard System of referencing.

For parenthetical references, please include the author and date of publication, for example (McCloskey, 2014). If including page numbers in the reference, use the format (McCloskey, 2014: 24).

If the work has two or three authors, include all names in your citation. Please, avoid the ampersand ‘&’ and use the conjunction ‘and’. For example (Liston and Devitt, 2020), instead of (Liston & Devitt, 2020).

If citing more than one work by the same author, please cite chronologically from the earliest to most recent work. For example (Jones, 1997; Jones, 2002; Jones, 2019). This format should also be followed in the reference list.

If the work has four or more authors, the abbreviation ‘et al.’ should be used after the first author’s name.

If the work has been cited in the preceding sentence, please use “Ibid.” [no italics]. If citing a specific page number from the work previously cited, please use “Ibid.: [page number]”. For example, “Ibid.: 71”.

If a direct quote from a book, article, etc., is used you must use single quotation marks. Double quotation marks are used for quoting direct speech or indented quotations of 35 words or more which should be inserted as a separate, indented paragraph.

Please avoid using footnotes by including the information in the main body of the article. In addition, please include a full list of works cited (references) at the end of the article, in alphabetical order. Please ensure that all relevant works are included in the references list.

In the reference list, books must contain the following information: Last name, First initial (Year published) Title [in italics], City: Publisher. For example: Adams, M (2016) *Ecological Crisis, Sustainability and the Psychosocial Subject*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

In the reference list, a chapter in an edited book must contain the following information: Last name, First initial (Year published) 'Chapter title' In First initial, Last name (ed) Book Title [in italics], City: Publisher. For example: Hamilton, J (2019) 'Emotions, Reflexivity and the Long Haul: What We Do About How We Feel About Climate Change' in P Hoggett (ed.) *Climate Psychology: On Indifference to Disaster*, Basingstoke: Palgrave.

In the reference list, journal articles must also contain the following information: Volume number [Vol.], Issue number [No.], and page number(s) [pp.]. For example: McCloskey, S (2020) 'Pedagogy of the Oppressed', *Policy and Practice: A Development Education Review*, Vol. 30, Spring, pp. 203-209.

In the reference list, articles cited from online publications, such as newspapers and blogs, must contain the following information: Last name, First initial (Year published) 'Article title', Title of Publication [in italics], Date. For example: Mann, M, Hassol, S J and Toles, T (2017) 'Doomsday Scenarios are as Harmful as Climate Change Denial', *The Washington Post*, 12 July.

Moreover, if the article is found on a database or through a website, the reference should also include the website URL and the date that the article was accessed. For example: Mann, M, Hassol, S J and Toles, T (2017) 'Doomsday Scenarios are as Harmful as Climate Change Denial', *The Washington Post*, 12 July, available: https://www.washingtonpost.com/gdprconsent/?destination=%2fopinions%2fdoomsday-scenarios-are-as-harmful-asclimate-change-denial%2f2017%2f07%2f12%2f880ed002-6714-11e7-a1d7-9a32c91c6f40_story.html%3futm_term%3d.2d0ee806f539 (accessed 8 January 2020).

Spelling

All submissions should follow UK spelling and usage (for example organisation *not* organization, centre *not* center, programme *not* program) except in the case of proper nouns or in quotations.

Numbers

The numbers one to ninety-nine should be spelled out except when referring specifically to data or measurements. Ordinal numbers should be spelled out, as in thirteenth or twentieth century. Authors should try, as far as possible, to refer to decades numerically and not colloquially i.e. the 1990s rather than 'the Nineties'. A number or year at the start of a sentence should be spelled out, as in 'Five studies were carried out...' or 'Nineteen ninety-four began with a series...'

Percentages

Write per cent, not %.

DOI

Policy and Practice **does not** publish the digital object identifier (DOI) in references so please do not include them.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

If an organisation etc. is known by an acronym, for the first occurrence quote the full name followed by the acronym in brackets. For example, Irish Aid (IA). An acronym can be used in all subsequent cases. Please do not use full stops in acronyms, e.g. UK *not* U.K., US *not* U.S.

We welcome the use of acronyms for the sake of brevity, particularly where a commonly used term is to be employed frequently throughout the article, for example: development education (DE); non-governmental organisations (NGOs); education for sustainable development (ESD); transnational corporations (TNCs); international financial institution (IFI); and foreign direct investment (FDI).

We ask that authors keep the use of capitalisation to a minimum, except in the case of proper nouns and recognised curricular subjects: the global North/South, East, West; North America, Western Europe, South East Asia; north/south of Ireland; Geography, Politics, Citizenship.

Verb Tense

Choose a verb tense and maintain its use throughout the text. In discussions of the literature, always use the past tense, for example 'Harvey (2010) argued that...'

Tables, Graphs and Illustrations

All tables, graphs and illustrations should be properly sourced. Where necessary, it is the author's responsibility to obtain permission for any material used. All tables, graphs and illustrations should be submitted as jpegs to assist with web formatting with the sources cited.

Submission Checklist

Each Focus article should contain:

- A title;
- The author's name;
- Abstract and Key Words;
- Clearly labelled contents, effectively dividing the article into an introduction, discussion and conclusion;
- A full list of works cited (references) in alphabetical order;
- A short biographical statement about the author. It should briefly describe the author's background, occupation, organisation (if applicable), and research interests;
- The author's full address and contact details, including e-mail. Please clarify which of these details, if any, you wish to be published.

Please send your article to the editor, **Stephen McCloskey**, via email. Do not hesitate to contact Stephen if you have any questions regarding these guidelines or the journal in general.

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***Policy and Practice* is funded by:**



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Last updated: August 2026