

*Today, we are proud to introduce **OMEF as a STAR Affiliate collaborator** of Montessori Global Education - a collaboration rooted in shared purpose, global reach, and a collective commitment to advancing high-quality early childhood education.*

*Through **STAR Affiliation**, we work alongside strategically aligned organisations whose advocacy, research, and practical initiatives strengthen the educational landscape worldwide.*

OMEF's longstanding international presence, its consultative status with the United Nations and UNESCO, and its dedication to defending children's rights position this partnership as both timely and impactful.

In this article, we explore OMEF's work, the personal journeys of its members, and how, together, we are building a worldwide movement that empowers educators, supports parents as First Educators, and amplifies the global voice for early childhood.





OMEP & Montessori Global Education: Building a Worldwide Movement for Early Childhood

*By Jayde Davies,
National Committee Member,
OMEP UK*



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What is OMEP



OMEP is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation with recognised consultative status at both the United Nations and UNESCO.

The organisation aims to defend and promote the rights of children, particularly their right to education and care worldwide. OMEP's work centres on **three areas**: advocacy to influence policy, research to support inclusive high-quality practices, and innovative projects that foster play, sustainability, culture, creativity, and child citizenship in early childhood care and education (ECCE).

OMEP is represented in **67 countries** with member states on every continent.

The committee comprises a diverse group of individuals, including practitioners, educators, policymakers, parents, students, and retired professionals. All members are united by a shared interest in early childhood development, with a belief that together, we can be a powerful voice.

To find out more, please visit:
<https://www.omep.org.uk/about-us/>



Why I joined OMEP

Many years ago, I joined OMEP as a member, first as a childminder, and later as a Forest School practitioner. I was looking for ideas to support sustainable practices and activities I could share with the children in my care, and that's when I discovered the OMEP-UK Early Childhood Education for Sustainable Citizenship Award.



The children loved taking part, especially filling out their little passports as they completed activities.

I was equally impressed by the support I received throughout the process, the SchemaPlay resources helped me adapt activities for children of different ages and abilities, while the OMEP team provided regular guidance and encouragement.

Through this experience, I soon realised that OMEP offered far more than I had first imagined.

A few years later, my membership opened even more doors. I received support from fellow members during my Master's Degree in Montessori Education, was awarded the student travel bursary to attend conferences in Sweden and Thailand. I also had the opportunity to network with leading researchers and meetings, conferences and events. In 2024, I was also proud to be nominated as a committee member.



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The work of OMEP



OMEP supports early childhood worldwide by providing workshops, courses, seminars, and meetings for teachers, families, and communities. Its work is grounded in current research led by committee members and enriched by contributions from the wider community.

By fostering networks of solidarity across countries, OMEP enables child advocates to share experiences, exchange best practices, and strengthen the voice of civil society in international forums. In addition, OMEP engages in collective advocacy, supporting national committees in their collaboration with governments, ministries, and multilateral agencies to ensure early childhood remains a priority on the global agenda.

Montessori Global Education and OMEP

As new strategic partners, OMEP and Montessori Global Education are excited to collaborate and share our thinking across practical initiatives and areas of informed discussion for our national and international audiences. OMEP are pleased to have secured Montessori Global's STAR Affiliation status, and with this comes a new opportunity – to support and scale Montessori Global Education's new work to promote parents as First Educators.



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Montessori Global Education and OMEP



Chief Executive Officer, Karen Chetwynd says
“We are particularly grateful to Jayde for her work to draw OMEP and Montessori Global into alignment at this important time – Jayde’s enthusiasm for our project work, both now and in preparation for the future, shows her dedication to improving opportunities and conditions for educators everywhere. It will be exciting to see Jayde’s pilot project work evolve!”

Jayde is fully committed to making a difference in communities and shares her experiences:

“As a mother of four, I know the challenges that parenthood presents. My introduction to motherhood was not an easy one. At times I felt very alone and isolated, wanting the best for my child but not knowing where to turn. The projects Montessori Global have prepared are innovative – they aim to provide open and welcoming environments for parents of all backgrounds, supporting them in recognising and valuing the contributions they can make to their child’s early development.”



My name is Megan McGee, and I am a member of OMEP UK's executive committee. Since joining in 2019, I have seen first-hand how OMEP connects educators across the globe and supports professional growth. The student travel awards I received allowed me to attend conferences in Panama, Sweden, and Thailand, broadening my understanding of early childhood education practices worldwide. Today, in my role managing OMEP UK's social media and student travel awards, I am excited to help share these opportunities with educators and families – I encourage all educators to consider applying for these awards!

*You can learn more about our offer here:
www.omep.org.uk/about-us/*



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Prof. Catherine Meehan, President of OMEP UK, says:

“As President of OMEP UK, my commitment is rooted in the organisation’s mission: to safeguard children’s rights and promote high-quality early childhood education and care worldwide. We share the values of Montessori Global Education, and together, we seek to advance innovative projects that empower parents and educators, support sustainable practices, and foster children’s creativity and citizenship from an early age.

OMEP UK’s work, grounded in research, practice, and policy, will now reach even further, across a global audience, offering educators and families practical tools and opportunities to make a real difference in children’s lives.

If you want to be part of this global effort to strengthen early childhood education and support children’s development, we invite you to engage with our initiatives and join us!”



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*If you would like to become part of this global movement,
please email us at ceo@montessori.org.uk
Together we can amplify the voice for early childhood.*

*To learn more about OMEP and their work, visit:
<https://www.omep.org.uk/about-us/>*

*Connect with a global community of like-minded people,
keen to share and learn more about child-focused
education and learner-centred practice:
[Explore our Network](#)*



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