

## **Sir Roger Fry CBE**

Chair COBISEC-COBIS1996-2011

Honorary President 2011-2021

Roger Fry was born in Portsmouth, England, during World War 2 where he was educated at Primary and Grammar Schools and continued his education in the University of London. He graduated at King's College and trained as a teacher at the Institute of Education.

His teaching career soon took him abroad and he became involved in founding a British School in Madrid in 1969 and was its Head for twelve years until 1981. From 1981 until 2019 he founded ten more British schools overseas in places as divergent as China and Central America and chaired the Group that promoted them.

In 1996 he was elected Chair of the Council of British Independent Schools in the European Communities (COBISEC), a role he held until 2011. During that time, he transformed the Association into the Council of British International Schools (COBIS) and its membership increased fourfold.

As Chair of COBIS he lobbied the Department for Education for the creation of a recognised inspection scheme for British Schools Overseas and this was established in 2010. As a result, COBIS was admitted as a full voting member of the UK's Independent Schools Council with Roger Fry as a board member. Another initiative under his chairmanship was the creation of the COBIS annual residential conference. Princess Alexandra graciously agreed to become the Patron of COBIS and regularly attended its annual reception at the Conference at that time.

For his work in favour of British schools abroad he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Portsmouth University, and he also became an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College Oxford. In 2002 he was honoured with a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) and he was Knighted for services to British education overseas in 2012.