

# National Association for Primary Education

## Position Paper on Local Associations

### 1. Local Associations are to be encouraged because:

- They provide a forum for teachers and others with a strong interest in primary education and a concern for its well-being to come together for discussion at a local level, spanning different forms of educational provision and where appropriate different local authorities. This wider educational community can potentially embrace school governors, parents, LA advisers and officers, TAs and lecturers and students in HE as well as primary teachers.
  
- They can potentially provide an additional layer of professional development for student teachers and other students on education-based programmes through their participation in events alongside members of the profession. With this in mind, the National Council is keen to encourage the development of university based associations which both cater for the prospective members of the profession and the local schools. In particular the coming together of tutors in higher education and staff in schools under the umbrella of a local association can only enrich the partnerships which have been established locally. Moreover, the facilities available in higher education may well be more suitable for INSET activities than those of a primary school because of the space and resources available.
  
- Collaboration between the various stakeholders in the profession within the committee of a local association can generate very worthwhile professional development which is in tune with local needs. The involvement, where appropriate, of prospective teachers in committee activity can also bring to bear an important perspective in the planning process.
  
- Local Associations can provide opportunities for the sharing of initiatives taken in local schools in the exploration of quality practice in primary education as well as opportunities to listen to distinguished keynote speakers.

**2. The National Council of NAPE is committed to the growth of local associations which are affiliated to the National Association.**

**In order to become a local association it should satisfy a number of conditions:**

- Its core aims should be in line with NAPE's mission.
- It should submit a brief report of its activities to the National Council at least once a year, and an annual statement of accounts (as advised by the Treasurer).
- It should encourage committee members and attendees of local events to join the National Association in order to get the full benefits of membership, including regular communication and receipt of the journal, Primary First. Irrespective of the arrangements made for establishing and maintaining a local network, membership of NAPE is perceived as national membership and can only be secured through joining the National Association.
- It utilises the NAPE logo in its publicity.
- It is organised along democratic lines, including elections for key committee roles on an annual basis.

If the above conditions cannot be met, the National Council may exceptionally decide to withdraw the entitlement of the local group to identify itself as a NAPE association.

**The National Council will support Local Associations through:**

- Encouraging at least one of the committee members in a regional Association to join the National Council.
- Advertising local events on the NAPE website and newsletters.
- Ensuring as far as possible that at least one event per year organised by a local association is attended by a member of the National Council, so that a central presence is evident.
- Building on established links with colleagues in a particular locality and/or particular institution to examine the feasibility and desirability of establishing a new Local Association.

- Informing the Local Association about NAPE members in that locality who might want to participate in local events and providing a list of recommended speakers.
- Providing initial financial support for the establishment of a local group, if so requested.
- Copying the branch chair into the agenda and minutes of all Council meetings.

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