

National Drama: Responding, Supporting and Leading

Executive Mission Statement 2022-2024

Introduction

National Drama (ND) is the UK's leading professional subject association for all teachers, lecturers and theatre educators whose work is concerned with learning about, and through, drama and theatre education. ND provides an inclusive and progressive framework of continuing professional development that is informed by reflective practice, research, publications, productive partnerships and creative networking.

ND celebrates diversity and promotes respect and equality in all dimensions of its work. ND welcomes members from those communities deemed to have 'protected characteristics', as identified in the 2020 Equalities Act.

National Drama's Overriding Rationale

ND exists to ensure that all children and young people have opportunities to learn about and through drama and theatre education within a broad, balanced and coherent curriculum that is taught by teachers who have appropriate levels of subject knowledge and have received recent relevant training.

ND is committed to establishing Drama as a discrete subject in primary, secondary, SEND and alternative education communities with equal status to the other arts subjects.

ND will support, lead and respond appropriately to the community of teachers and educational drama and theatre practitioners who make up the membership. ND recognises that members have unique career profiles and differing professional needs. ND has over thirty years experience of representing and advocating for Drama in education nationally and internationally. It is uniquely positioned to represent and support today's practitioners at the differing stages of their professional journey.

The Value of Drama and Theatre Education

Drama is a subject with highly effective pedagogical qualities. It facilitates interaction, exploration, performance, self-expression and meaning-making. Drama as both subject and pedagogy has transformational potential, enabling children, teachers and young people to understand what it is to be human.

Drama as both subject and is a practical subject with identifiable artistic elements. It has clearly defined concepts, aesthetics, skills and forms. It is a process that develops artistic, social and cultural understanding in global contexts.

Drama's contribution to children and young peoples' education is social, communal, academic and artistic. It is 'social' in that it remains an essentially collaborative process, facilitating and exploring the development of personal self-esteem and wellbeing. It is 'communal' because it celebrates the values and ethos of the school. As the Secondary Heads Association once claimed 'a school without Drama is a school without a soul' (1998). It is 'academic' because it develops skills in planning and generating ideas; imagining; negotiating; exploring; rehearsing; questioning; interpreting; researching; reflecting; problem-solving; presenting. It is 'artistic', because its artistic forms enable children and young people to both explore their world and to present their vision of the kind of world they wish to see.

National Drama's Identified Areas of Responsibility

ND defines its six key responsibilities as follows:

- Communication: ND will celebrate practice, provide information and critique political and educational policies through publication, CPD, research, bursaries and social media platforms;
- Consultancy: ND will provide advice, support, commentary and mentoring to individuals, institutions and academy chains, whilst making prompt and appropriate responses to immediate needs and requests from the membership;
- Continuing professional development: ND's CPD will provide high-quality advice and support to address the pressures, needs and demands that an ever-changing professional context has on members. ND will regularly provide celebratory opportunities, classroom resources, courses and conferences;
- Partnerships: ND will actively seek, and sustain, collaborative and relevant partnerships that enhance and develop drama teaching, learning and theatre-making with and for children and young people;
- Research and publication: ND will ensure that reflection and research underpin and develop practice. Publications will include articles and features that communicate the potential of Drama and professional theatre projects within primary, secondary, tertiary and SEND schools, education communities and HE;
- Subject advocacy: ND will promote drama as an arts subject within primary, secondary, tertiary, SEND and community education, gather evidence of drama learning and engage in national and international political dialogue;

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Executive Vision

ND's Executive vision is to ensure that dynamic, positive and interactive relationships permeate the work of the association and exist across the membership. The Executive endeavours to be visibly:

- Responding
- Supporting
- Leading

These three 'actions' will inform how Executive develops the important concepts of inclusivity, relevance and representation across the membership.

As a National Drama Individual Member, you will be entitled to professional support and development opportunities in the following ways:

- Twice yearly copies of the ND Magazine, *Drama*;
- Free individual access to *Drama Research*, ND's international online research journal;
- Our monthly e-newsletter concerning national and international news, conferences and events;
- Free access to high quality teaching materials and classroom resources;
- Subject representation, reflecting your views and opinions, with the DfE and other government organisations;
- Reduced fees for ND regional, national and international courses and conferences and ND publications;
- Opportunities to participate in national and international dialogue concerning learning in and through Drama and Theatre Education;
- The opportunity to write about your work in our blog and *Drama* magazine and to contribute to research;
- Opportunity to apply for one of National Drama's Aine Lark Bursaries.

Executive Strategies

In order to further the development of the association during the next two years, the current Executive will implement the following strategies:

To maintain an executive and membership that is effectively representative of the UK population;

To increase the membership through engagement with individuals, institutions, theatres and Multi-Academy Trusts;

To support and enhance the quality of specialist initial and in-service drama teacher training;

To establish an extended advisory group in order to enhance the work of the Executive in national and international contexts;

To provide curriculum guidance on Drama and Theatre Education;

To promote the learning potential of Theatre in Education;

To re-establish the ND conference programme (regional, national and international);

To further develop our existing relationships with government bodies and agencies;

To create partnerships that develop a deeper understanding of learning in and through Drama and Theatre Education;

To further develop the Marketing and Communication Strategies.

Contact and subscription details:

Website address: <http://www.nationaldrama.org.uk/>

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Email: chair@nationaldrama.org.uk

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Registered Charity Number: 1173215

Annual Membership Fees:

Individual Membership: £40

Concessions: £20

UK Primary Schools: £30

UK Secondary Schools: £60

UK SEND Schools; £30

UK Alternative Education Provision: £30

University and HE Institution Membership: £60

Education and Professional Organisations Membership £50

Theatre in Education Company Membership: £30

Main Scale Touring Theatre and Building-based Company Membership: £50

International Membership (Individual) £50

International Membership (Organisation) £90

Multi-Academy Trust and SCITT Membership £90

PGCE Initial Teacher Education: Free Membership for One Year

Early Career Teacher: £10 p.a. for two years

Subscription option £26-£36 for magazine.