

# **Educating Northants Constitution**

**16 June 2022**

## 1 Background

- 1.1** We are a movement of local teachers and educators who believe in Northamptonshire and are optimistic and aspirational for its future.
- 1.2** We represent educators and children across all schools and all settings in the county, from nursery through to colleges and the university. We aim to be a non-partisan group and all educational philosophies, political views and perspectives are welcome.
- 1.3** Educating Northants was formed in 2019 and organised an inaugural conference in Northamptonshire, hosted at University of Northampton. Since then, it has organised a number of other activities including 'Ned Talks' and an online conference in March 2021. It has a social media presence on Twitter and Facebook.

## 2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1** The overarching aim of Educating Northants is to celebrate the work of teachers and schools by facilitating meaningful and sustained collaboration between educational settings in our county.
- 2.2 Specific objectives are:**
- 2.2.1** To promote the work of teachers and schools in Northamptonshire and telling a good news story about education in Northamptonshire.
- 2.2.2** To provide a forum for Northamptonshire educators to collaborate and learn from each other.
- 2.2.3** To strengthen the relationships between teachers, schools and other educational settings within Northamptonshire.
- 2.2.4** To raise the national profile of Northamptonshire, its schools and teachers in the national educational debate and to contribute towards Northamptonshire being seen as a desirable place to live and teach.

## 3 Governing Structure

- 3.1** Educating Northants is not a constituted legal entity such as a charity or a company limited by guarantee. It exists as an informal group/structure made up of volunteers with the primary purpose of organising a biennial education conference and other informal educational activity in Northamptonshire.
- 3.2** Each year in April, a **steering group** of between 4 and 6 people will be confirmed who share overall responsibility for Educating Northants. This group will take overall responsibility for ensuring that the activity that takes place under the Educating Northants brand is consistent with its partnership aims and objectives listed in section 2.
- 3.3** The current steering group membership for 2022/23 is:

**J. Davenport**  
**J. Giovanelli**  
**E. Gray**  
**C.Taboada-Naya**

**3.4** Alongside the steering group, there will also be a **conference organisation group** which will be set up in advance of each conference.

One of the Educating Northants steering group members will be elected as chair for the conference organisation group and will have oversight of this group, ensuring that the conference is successful and operates within the partnership aims and objectives listed in Section 2.

**3.4** In agreeing membership of the conference organisation group, the steering group will take all reasonable steps to ensure that there is sufficient diversity within the group. This should include ensuring that different phases (Secondary/Primary/EYFS) and specialist settings (Special Ed/University) are represented, along with consideration of gender, ethnicity, disability and other protected characteristics. The steering group should also ensure that there is sufficient representation from front line teachers and school staff to ensure that the group isn't dominated by senior leaders.

**3.5** An example of the roles within the conference organisation group is as follows:

- Conference Group Chair
- Sponsorship Coordinator
- Social Media Coordinator
- Content Coordinator

## **4 Financial management**

**4.1** Educating Northants operates on the basis of volunteer support from its steering group and conference organising group and no payments are made to any members of these groups.

**4.2** The only financial transactions that Educating Northants engages in are in relation to its events and conference activity which include income from ticket payments and sponsorship. As an organisation operating not for profit, the aim is for events to be 'cost neutral'.

**4.3** Educating Northants does not have its own bank account or means of payment. A school or educational establishment will act as the fundholding organisation for Educating Northants, accounting for any balances as part of its existing financial reporting and having proper oversight of all financial transactions. This school or educational establishment will be agreed in April each year.

**4.4** The current fundholding organisation for 2022/23 is **Northampton School for Girls**.

## **5 Annual activities**

**5.1** On an annual basis, the steering group will agree a programme of annual activities that Education Northants will engage in. For 2022/23 the agreed activities include but are not limited to:

1. An **Educating Northants Conference** in **March 2023**

2. A series of informal '**NedTalks**' events

## **6 Recruitment for the Conference Organisation Group**

6.1 **In May 2023**, Educating Northants will recruit the conference organisation group for the March 2023 conference.