

## **School Leaders Represented at National Policy Development Groups**

**Issue** – Scottish Government and CoSLA and others regularly establish groups to look at policy development and implications.

### **Headline position**

School leadership teams must be represented on these groups to pursue the interests of those who will have to manage the implementation of new policies in schools.

This must be done by legitimate representative of their Professional Association(s) – in the case of school management teams in nursery, primary and special schools this should be AHDS.

### **Full position**

AHDS is keen to represent the views of its members in the development of all relevant education policy.

We do not believe it is adequate to say that the perspective of Head Teachers and Deputes should be represented by the 'Teachers' side'. The role of school management teams is very different to that of classroom teachers and one body cannot effectively represent both. It is imperative that the voice of school management teams is heard early in the policy development process to ensure that officials are aware of the realities of implementation which will be faced in Scotland's schools.

In the past, individual head teachers have been approached to be on policy groups. While we do not question the professional credentials of these individuals (indeed they have sometimes been AHDS members) they can only express a personal perspective and do not represent the collective views of a large portion of Scottish School management teams. This can only be done by the relevant professional Association.

Where issues relate to nursery, special or primary schools it is imperative that AHDS is involved in policy development. (The same is applicable to secondary schools and SLS.) Where there are issues which relate to both AHDS and SLS member interests both groups should be involved in the process wherever possible.