

## *What is a Cluster Support Group?*

The aims of the Asset Languages Cluster Support Group Network are to:

- Provide opportunities for teachers of Asset Languages qualifications to share good practice, discuss issues and explore new ideas
- Enable teachers to receive support and training locally
- Provide centres (schools and colleges) with a line of communication to Asset Languages

Centres wishing to participate in the support network organise themselves into clusters of normally about 10 centres (numbers will of course depend on geographical and organisational factors). Asset Languages will provide contact details of both Cluster Support Coordinators and centres wishing to participate in a Cluster Support Group once signed consent has been received. One suggested approach to the organisation of a cluster is for the person willing to be the Cluster Coordinator to contact local schools to set up the group, either within an existing network meeting or if necessary or desirable a newly created cluster group.

A typical Cluster Coordinator will:

- Attend free training meetings provided by Asset Languages
- Arrange a minimum of two network meetings for schools in the cluster each year, including booking venues, sending out invitations etc
- Where appropriate, lead meetings using resource materials provided by Asset Languages

It is expected that Cluster Coordinators will be experienced teachers, confident with this type of role.

Asset Languages will:

- Provide a free training meeting for Cluster Coordinators each year
- Pay travelling expenses and subsistence expenses for Cluster Coordinators to attend training meetings
- Provide resource materials to use at two network meetings each year
- Listen to feedback from Cluster Coordinators in developing support materials for schools, devising resources for forthcoming network meetings, deciding if any additional training e.g. INSET should be available etc

Advantages to centres in joining the network are:

- Through the Cluster Coordinator, you will have a line of communication with Asset Languages
- You will meet and be able to work with teachers in local centres to share good practice, improve teaching and learning in your Asset Languages classes and develop shared resources etc
- Support and training will be provided locally, at times and locations convenient to those attending
- Network meetings can be held more or less frequently and set agendas as determined by the members. The cluster is 'owned' by the centres participating
- In many cases networks can run in parallel with the other support services available to centres e.g. from LA Advisors/consultants, ASTs and specialist language colleges etc

For further information, answers to frequently asked questions etc, please use the website:

[www.assetlanguages.org.uk](http://www.assetlanguages.org.uk)

If you have any specific questions not answered by visiting the website, please email:

[assetlanguagesclustersupport@ocr.org.uk](mailto:assetlanguagesclustersupport@ocr.org.uk)