

ISASA PUBLICATIONS (PTY) LTD

EDITORIAL POLICY

Vision

The vision of ISASA Publications (Pty) Ltd is of a successful, sustainable company that:

- is an acknowledged leader in the production and marketing of excellent, relevant publications in the educational field;
- assists ISASA in achieving its vision and mission;
- informs and supports ISASA members and other readers; and
- promotes quality education in the independent sector and education in general, across the Southern African region.

Mission

The mission of ISASA Publications (IP) is to:

- produce and distribute publications of the highest calibre that assist ISASA in achieving its vision, mission and strategic goals, and promote the interests of its member schools and education in general;
- serve as an open forum for the exchange of information and ideas in pre-primary, primary and secondary education;
- investigate all aspects of successful schools - strategic, academic, financial and operational – that will help schools continuously to improve their teaching and learning, governance and management;
- assist schools to manage ongoing, rapid global environmental and technological change so they can take advantage of new opportunities and meet the challenges to become sustainable, thriving institutions;
- co-operate closely with organisations, companies and corporate members of ISASA that advertise in the publications to assist them in strengthening their communications and links with schools; and
- be innovative and progressive in identifying new opportunities to serve independent schools so that the company grows and prospers.

Editorial Policy

All publications produced by IP aim to:

- advise, inform and support ISASA members and other readers;

- serve as an open forum for the exchange of information and ideas in pre-primary, primary and secondary education;
- promote the interests of both independent education and education in general; and
- support the mission of ISASA.

1. Editorial Independence

The editor should enjoy the maximum degree of editorial independence, while recognising:

- the right of oversight and input into editorial content of the Managing Director, who carries overall responsibility for all publications of ISASA Publications (Pty) Ltd;
- the guidelines of the Editorial Policy below; and
- the need to operate within the broad framework of ISASA's strategic aims, values and policies.

2. Editorial Panel (EP)

The Board of ISASA Publications has established the Editorial Panel (EP) as a standing advisory sub-committee to assist with feedback on the quality and relevance of the editions of *Independent Education* and advice on themes, ideas, articles and contributors for future issues. The EP also assists the IP Board in the development of editorial and advertising policy for final approval of the Board. The Editor and the Managing Director of ISASA Publications are members of the Editorial Panel.

3. Policy Guidelines

3.1 Alignment with ISASA's vision and mission

IP is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ISASA and *Independent Education* (IE) is the official magazine of ISASA. In order to assist ISASA in achieving its vision, mission and strategic goals, and promote the interests of its member schools, publications need to be in general aligned with and support:

- The ISASA Brand:

The Brand stands for Quality, Values and Diversity: quality education, high standards of ethical practice and values-based education, and diversity in terms of types of schools, democratic choice and racial transformation. Preserving the integrity of the Brand is of fundamental importance to ISASA and its members.

- ISASA's strategic advocacy:

ISASA engages with multiple internal and external stakeholders, with government as the most important external stakeholder. Copies of IE are sent to Ministers and senior officials in the national and provincial education departments.

ISASA's interaction with government is multi-layered and nuanced. It interacts on the basis of principled constructive engagement to solve mutual problems and to assist government in its efforts to improve the quality of education for all children in Southern Africa.

The Association works hard in its advocacy to be seen as a complementary partner of the public sector and show its commitment to national development.

It tries to counter misperceptions that the independent school sector is exclusive, conservative and insular, but is rather an integral and responsible part of our democratic society.

ISASA is at pains not to be seen as a constantly adversarial critic of government, and thus it publicly supports and co-operates with government where it believes its policies and initiatives are beneficial for the education system and our sector. However, it also firmly upholds the rights of independent schools where they are threatened, lobbying against and criticising injurious policies and administrative injustice, even to the extent where it will take legal action against departments as a last resort.

The Association makes the point constantly that independent schools must have the freedom to be different and innovative and can act as test-beds for the whole education system. Independent schools also must have the resources to make them financially sustainable.

Consequently, articles in IP publications should not undermine the ISASA brand, nor should they be at odds with or damage the messages of ISASA's advocacy work.

3.2 High standards of journalistic and editorial practice

In order for publications to be of the highest calibre, the content must meet high standards of journalistic and editorial practice. It must be:

- professional in tone

- intellectually stimulating
- balanced and objective
- even-handed in reporting
- based on research, and
- properly referenced and /or use examples from credible and authoritative sources.

3.3 Value-adding

The publications of IP must add value to ISASA's members by:

- serving as an open forum for the exchange of information and ideas. Debate and the airing of contentious matters in articles to explore issues, raise concerns and provide new insights are desirable;
- investigating all aspects of successful schools to help members continuously improve their teaching and learning, governance and management;
- assisting schools to manage change, tackle difficult challenges and seize new opportunities; and
- supporting the professional development of school leaders and educators.

4. Content

- **Featured articles**

In the case of both calls for features and commissioned articles, the decision to publish is based on the following criteria of academic merit:

- Quality of content.
- Quality of writing.
- Originality.
- Objectivity.
- Verifiability

Features are expected to be independent and critical assessments of a topic by an individual author. Where necessary, they should be adequately referenced.

- **Copyright**

As a rule IP does not pay for editorial copy, so copyright resides with the writer/contributor. However, where it commissions and pays for articles, copyright will then be vested in IP.

