JUSTIFICATION OF RESOURCES

Staffing (further details under ‘staff duties’)
A full-time Research Fellow will be employed for the length of the project. This is essential to maintain continuity and integrity in the project. The responsibilities of the post are consistent with those specified at Research Grade 7. The PI and CI will need considerable involvement with the work. We estimate that each will need the equivalent of one day/week and 0.5 day/week for the life of the project. We have included costs for technical support essential to the technical interpretation and analysis of the NPD/PLASC datasets (Mr XXX and Dr XXX). To support liaison with schools and administrative work we have included costs for one day/week of clerical support. Costs for technical and clerical support are included in the 'Other Directly Allocated' category.

Travel and Subsistence
Visits to schools for fieldwork. Data collection activities conducted by researchers within schools will include interviews with teachers and student focus groups. This will require 20 school visits in the first year of the project, and 40 visits on each subsequent year. We have budgeted for a total of 14 overnight stays to support data collection in more distant schools.

Network meetings. Attendance at network meetings with other projects funded within the ESRC Science and Mathematics Initiative will be an important part of our activities. We have included costs for three such meetings involving the Investigators and Researcher.

Invited dissemination conference. This will be an important mechanism for the dissemination of final project findings. Costed for attendance of 50 people at a day conference in London.

Conferences. We have budgeted for two individuals to attend the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association. This is the largest such meeting in the world and covers a wide range of methodological and substantive areas. This will enable the methodological and theoretical findings of the conference to be communicated to the academic community worldwide. We have also budgeted for attendance of two people at the Association for Science Education Annual Meeting. This is the key meeting for stakeholders in English and Welsh science education and represents a key dissemination opportunity.

Other Costs
Computing. Facilities for intensive use of data analysis software and working with the very large national datasets are required. We have budgeted for two computers of high specification with printers. Site licence for three copies of MaxQDA (qualitative) and two copies of MLwiN (quantitative) software are required.

Consumables and Publication Costs. We have included sufficient costs to cover postage and printing of questionnaires and publication of annual and final reports to a high quality.

Transcription. Interviews will need to be transcribed to enable careful analysis. We have included costs for transcription of an estimated 150 hours of interviewing.

Teaching cover and administration costs for fieldwork. Data collection within case study schools requires a significant commitment from schools. This includes teacher time, but also associated administrative costs. We propose to provide a fee to support the ongoing involvement and commitment of schools. Costed at £500 per school per year.

Recruitment and Advertising Costs. The recruitment of a high quality candidate to the post of Research Fellow will be important to the success of the project. We have included costs for advertising in one national paper.

National school sample. We have included costs to draw upon expertise and resources of NFER to generate a random, stratified school sample for national surveys.