

SCORE update

This paper is a note of the SCORE business meeting held on the 16 June 2011. It is available to download on the SCORE website.

Briefing papers

Over the coming months SCORE Committee will produce briefing papers on the following issues:

- Key Stage 4 assessment: Impact of English Baccalaureate, progression from science GCSEs and modularisation of science GCSEs
- The place of the 'nature of science' in the National Curriculum
- Quality assurance and effective evaluation for enrichment and enhancement activities
- 14-16 vocational and applied qualifications

National Curriculum

SCORE member organisations are involved in the informal advisory groups for the sciences for the National Curriculum review which is being led by the Department for Education. The review groups will provide advice on the new Programme of Study for the sciences.

Engagement activities

SCORE will develop a series of engagement activities throughout the year on current science education policy issues. Some activities are already in existence like the Annual Conference. In addition SCORE will host a series of seminars and workshops to discuss areas of policy and engage with the wider science community. Details will be available shortly on the website.

Resourcing of science in schools

SCORE has agreed to research the level of resourcing of practical work in science in primary and secondary schools, and colleges in England. Resourcing of science in schools will review the resourcing requirements of primary and secondary schools (and colleges) delivering a practical science curriculum (laboratories, equipment, consumables, technician and field work support). It will then compare the actual resourcing of science departments with the requirements identified by SCORE. It aims to provide national policy advice on the resourcing on practical work but also to influence local policy, due to the increased level of autonomy to be given to schools. The first stage of the research will include a review and revision of previous resource check lists prepared by the Royal Society and RSC. Existing criteria for laboratories, technician support and fieldwork support will also be compiled.

Science and Technology Select Committee

SCORE Chair Graham Hutchings will provide oral evidence at the Science and Technology Select Committee evidence session on school science experiments and field work on 29 June 2011.

School workforce in England

SCORE submitted evidence to the UK Statistics Authority call for evidence on DfE publication *School workforce in England* in terms of usefulness and data collected.