

## PS047 - CLEAPSS services for trainee teachers

### What is CLEAPSS?

CLEAPSS is an advisory service supporting the teaching of *practical* science, D&T and art in schools and colleges from nursery through to GCE A-level or equivalent.

CLEAPSS advice covers many aspects of practical science and technology, including:

- guidance and training on how to carry out effective experiments and demonstrations - safely
- guidance on all aspects of health and safety in school science, D&T and art
- how to use particular pieces of apparatus
- how to look after various species of animals or plants.

### What services are available?

We offer a number of services.

- A large range of publications, including termly newsletters, handbooks, guides, and leaflets
- A **Helpline** that can be contacted by phone or e-mail (we take ~ 7,000 calls per year).
- Training courses covering hands-on practical science, design and technology, and art, as well as health and safety (we run around 200 courses each year, at various locations around the country)
- On behalf of members, we liaise with many other organisations, including the HSE and DfE

As a trainee teacher, the first three of these services are likely to be of most immediate interest to you.

### As a trainee teacher, what is my entitlement to CLEAPSS services?

If you are doing your teaching practice in a school that is a member of CLEAPSS (as almost all are), or if the establishment at which you are doing your training is a member, you have the same access as any other member of staff.

If you contact us by 'phone or e-mail we will ask you for the postcode of your school or training provider so that can check that you are entitled to our services.

### Who pays for CLEAPSS?

CLEAPSS is a membership organisation. It is open to schools, and groups of school, but not generally to individuals. Once a school or organisation is a member, any staff can use all of the CLEAPSS services.

At the time of writing, 175 out of 182 local authorities in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the various islands are members of CLEAPSS\*. This means that in those authorities all staff members in all local authority maintained schools have access to our services with no additional charge.

In addition, almost all independent, foundation and voluntary-aided schools and incorporated colleges subscribe directly (as associate members) or receive our services via a local authority. The great majority of academies are also members, many subscribing through a local authority, the remainder subscribing directly. Virtually all teacher-training establishments that offer science courses are associate members.

Overall, 98% of all secondary schools are members of CLEAPSS

[\*A sister organisation, SSERC, operates exclusively in Scotland.]

### Can I use the CLEAPSS Helpline?

If you are in a member school or college, yes, you are entitled to use the **Helpline**.

If you want to know a safe way of carrying out the thermite reaction or whether particular glues are suitable for use by children at Key Stage 1 we will happily deal with your enquiry. If your question is more about the benefits of the national curriculum or a specific aspect of pedagogy, then that is outside our remit.

Our focus is on *practical* science, D&T and art in schools. We do not have an encyclopaedic knowledge of *all* science. When you contact us, try to make your questions as specific as possible. For example, asking “Which species of animals are suitable for keeping in schools?” is more likely to enable us to provide you with just the information you want than “I am doing a project on animals. Please tell me all you know”.

We have invested heavily in our websites [www.cleapss.org.uk](http://www.cleapss.org.uk) (Science, D&T and art, and Primary). All of our documents are published on one or other of these. You will need to log in using the username and password which is supplied to the school or college. We always suggest you visit the relevant website first, and use the search facility to narrow down what you are looking for. The search results will also suggest related publications which may be useful to you.

The **Helpline** contact details are:      email:      science@cleapss.org.uk  
phone:      01895 251496

### How do I obtain CLEAPSS publications?

The CLEAPSS Bulletin for secondary schools is posted directly to all member schools each term, as well as being put onto the CLEAPSS science website. Although the Bulletin includes information on D&T and art, there is also a termly, on-line D&T/art publication called *Futureminds*. For primary teachers we produce a termly newsletter called *Explore*, which as well as being available on the primary website, is sent to all member primary schools.

If you are not able to track down the information you need, don't hesitate to contact the **Helpline**. We will let you know who, in your establishment, receives our publications and we will also check that your establishment *is* a paid-up member, so that you are able to benefit from CLEAPSS services.

### Which CLEAPSS publications might be useful to me?

Information about the full range of CLEAPSS publications can be found on our website.

Some documents of particular note include:

- **Hazcards.** A5-size cards giving health and safety information about the most commonly used chemicals in secondary school science. The cards are available on the CLEAPSS science website
- **Student Safety Sheets.** These can be used to support the teaching pupils about health & safety, and risk. The sheets provide information about hazards and situations found in school science (and elsewhere). Although they were originally designed for use by KS4 students, many of the sheets are also appropriate for use by students at KS3 and post-16 levels. A full, printable set is available on the CLEAPSS science website. These are not held behind the security log-in so that students can access them directly for themselves.

### Health and Safety

A very important aspect of our work involves providing advice, guidance and training on health and safety matters in school science D&T and art. Documents that will be particularly useful to you at this stage are:

- **PS021** Health and Safety in the School Laboratory and the New Teacher (for secondary teachers).
- **PS090** Making and recording risk assessments in school science

To find out more about CLEAPSS and the services it offers, visit the website [www.cleapss.org.uk](http://www.cleapss.org.uk)