



*Supporting practical science, D&T and art
in schools and colleges*

G001
A Guide to CLEAPSS Services
2026–27

The CLEAPSS mission statement

CLEAPSS exists to support practical activities in science, D&T and art

- From Year 1 to GCE A-level or equivalent,
- including health and safety, and
- advice on laboratories/workshops, equipment and resources.

Services are provided for:

- Local authority officers,
- teachers, technicians, senior leaders and governors in schools and colleges in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and overseas
- Initial teacher educators.
- advisers, school suppliers, publishers, awarding bodies and other organisations involved in supporting or promoting practical science, D&T and art activities in schools and colleges,
- school equipment, apparatus, chemical and biological material suppliers.

CLEAPSS will:

- Respond to queries quickly, courteously and accurately,
- keep abreast of developments in relevant areas and especially on health and safety matters,
- be proactive in drawing developments to the attention of members through publications and in-service training.

G001 Guide to CLEAPSS services

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This guide replaces all previous versions of G001 and will be updated yearly to adjust any changes in services and charges.

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G001 Guide to CLEAPSS Services

1 Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to assemble in one booklet, information about CLEAPSS services likely to be useful to members. More information about CLEAPSS is available on our websites, www.cleapss.org.uk

2 Purpose of CLEAPSS

The aims and methods of working of CLEAPSS are defined by the Constitution, a copy of which is available in the membership section of our website. CLEAPSS works in the field of school and college science, D&T and art & design, from reception through to GCE A-level or equivalent. It provides general support and advice for all aspects of practical work. This includes information, advice and training about laboratory and workshop design and working practices, technicians and their jobs, equipment, tools, materials, living organisms, and practical activities for students, with an over-arching focus on health and safety. CLEAPSS advice and guidance forms the basis of model risk assessments for practical activities carried out in educational settings in science, D&T and art. CLEAPSS currently has twenty-two permanent staff plus a similar number of part time consultants (see appendix iii). We have an office and a training facility which includes a laboratory and a workshop in Chesham, Buckinghamshire.

At the time of writing, 168 of the 179 authorities, with the duty to provide education, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the various islands, are members. (A sister organisation, SSERC, performs a similar function in Scotland.) Over 21,000 community schools, academies, incorporated colleges, independent, foundation and voluntary aided schools, teacher-training institutions, curriculum developers, field study centres and overseas establishments are members.

CLEAPSS® is a registered trade mark.

3 Membership and charges

3.1 CLEAPSS Membership

CLEAPSS membership is predominantly purchased by employers on behalf of their employees, to support the teaching of practical work in science, D&T and art & design including the provision of a cost-effective way for the employer to discharge its duties under the 1974 Health & Safety at work act in these subject areas, namely to provide safety guidance and model risk assessments for any hazardous activities carried out by its employees. CLEAPSS members who do not have employees directly engaged in working in schools and colleges usually join CLEAPSS in order to ensure that their products and services are provided in a way that matches what is expected by employers in schools and colleges.

3.2 CLEAPSS Charges

For a full list of CLEAPSS charges see Appendix i

4 The HELPLINE

One of the key services provided by CLEAPSS is a *Helpline* service. CLEAPSS advisers respond to queries by telephone and e-mail (including via our web site) from teachers, technicians, senior leaders and local authority officers. We deal with around 9000 such queries per year.

The *Helpline* is staffed throughout term time and during holiday periods. Typically, we take several dozen calls per day on health and safety, practical techniques, sources of equipment, laboratory design, etc.

5 CLEAPSS publications

5.1 Distribution of publications

All of our current primary and secondary publications are available to members on the CLEAPSS web site, www.cleapss.org.uk

5.2 Newsletters

Termly newsletters are produced for primary, secondary and design and technology. These contain important H&S updates, highlight new services or publications and offer a vehicle to share useful ideas and experience from our members. Copies of the primary and secondary science publications are posted directly to members; the D&T and art & design newsletter 'Future Minds' is available in an interactive format online. Back copies of all the newsletters are available on our websites.

5.3 Guides and leaflets

All publications are on our website. These cover everything from starting to sew to managing radioactive sources and almost everything in between. Guidance covers Science, Design & Technology (including Food) and Art & design.

5.4 Some specific publications

Hazcards® A set of A5 index cards, covering chemicals used in school science up to and including GCSE and most of those used for A-level. Hazards, precautions, dealing with spills and other accidents, and immediate remedial measures are included. *Hazcards* can be used as the basis for model (general) risk assessments required by the *COSHH Regulations 2002* and the *Management Regulations 1999*. *Hazcards®* is a registered trade mark.

Recipe sheets Intended to help laboratory technicians, this is a set of A4 sheets giving the compositions of common laboratory solutions and mixtures, and methods for preparing them. Safety information is given so they can be regarded as model (general) risk assessments for making up solutions.

Model Risk Assessments for D&T and art & design in Secondary Schools, covers both COSHH-type hazards (eg, chemicals, dusts) and those covered by the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations* (eg, tools, machines). These are intended for use by D&T and art & design teachers and technicians in secondary (and relevant special) schools.

Student Safety Sheets these are intended for use by pupils in Key Stage 4 and post 16, although some schools have used extracts with younger pupils. *Student safety sheets* can be accessed by pupils without the need for a password (which should not be shared with pupils).

6 Review work

CLEAPSS provides a checking service for practical activities described in publications produced by other organisations such as publishers or awarding bodies. Comments and suggestion are provided on the safety of the activity and, where necessary, activities that are unlikely to work are identified. This service is available with and without the use of an endorsement from CLEAPSS and is charged on an hourly basis. For more information on this service and a copy of our terms and conditions please contact the Deputy Director, Matt Endean.

7 Courses, conference workshops and talks

7.1 Courses

CLEAPSS runs a wide variety of courses, mostly 1-day, for local authorities, individual schools, and bodies such as Multi Academy Trusts. These can be for primary or secondary teachers and technicians. A list of current course titles can be found in appendix ii. Full details of the content of courses and dates and venues can be found on the courses section of our website www.cleapss.org.uk. Courses are updated, altered or dropped and new ones added over time.

Courses require minimum audience and CLEAPSS reserves the right to cancel or postpone any course where numbers do not reach this level 10 working days before the course is scheduled to run.

If you require information about dates or venues of forthcoming courses or about the detailed content of particular courses, please see the courses section of our websites.

Alternative arrangements are available for technician networks registered with CLEAPSS, for Multi Academy Trusts and local authorities who are members of CLEAPSS. Please contact CLEAPSS for further details.

7.2 Conferences

CLEAPSS runs a Safety Conference each year. This conference is designed to up-date safety officers and advisers from employing organisations on new developments in practical science, emerging safety issues in science, D&T and art teaching and the provision of equipment, laboratories, workshops, etc. At present owing to venue constraints this event is not open to representatives from individual schools.

8 Consultancy including site visits

CLEAPSS can offer a range of specialist consultancy-type services for members. There is a charge for such services because they involve site visits. See list of charges in appendix i. Sometimes where visits are useful to us, for example, if we are writing or revising a guide, we do not charge the full amount.

CLEAPSS often receive requests to visit individual schools for monitoring of radioactivity or other chemicals or to advise on health and safety or storage arrangements, laboratory design or technician job descriptions or investigating accidents. Whilst we are willing to consider this, we often find that visits are unnecessary and matters can be resolved by e-mail or over the telephone, supported by some photographs of the area of concern.

9 CLEAPSS technician job advertisement services

CLEAPSS provides a service to members enabling them to post advertisements for technician jobs in science and D&T and art and design on the CLEAPSS website. There is no additional charge for this service.

10 Working with other organisations

In addition to working with individual schools, we are often involved in consultancy or joint projects with associate members, curriculum developers and bodies such as the Association for Science Education and the Gatsby Foundation. The main criterion for involvement in such projects is whether it is broadly in our members' interests to do so. If, by being involved, there is a better outcome, resulting in better, safer practical activities for pupils and/or fewer calls to the CLEAPSS Helpline then the time is well spent.

11 Special risk assessments

On request, CLEAPSS can provide written risk assessments for operations not included in standard health and safety publications. This service may be particularly relevant for GCE A-level courses with project work or vocational qualifications. Responses to requests from individual member schools or colleges are usually provided free of charge, provided sufficient notice is given. More extensive requests from third parties are considered as either review work or bespoke consultancy.

12 RPA services (Radiation Protection Advice)

12.1 Context

Many secondary schools hold relatively low activity radioactive sources which they use to teach parts of the curriculum in science and/or GCE A-level Physics. The *Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017* (IRR17) places demands on employers, in particular, the duty for the employer, as a radiation employer, to appoint an appropriately qualified Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA). CLEAPSS is concerned that the cost of accessing this advice could lead schools to dispose of their radioactive sources and resort to videos and simulations, at a time when radioactivity is a topic with enormous relevance to society and the future lives of pupils. To combat this and help ensure radioactivity remains a practical part of the school curriculum for all pupils, CLEAPSS provides a low-cost route to accessing RPA advice which is available through brokering organisations, often local authorities.

12.2 CLEAPSS guide L093

The CLEAPSS guide “*Managing ionising radiations and Radioactive substances in Schools and Colleges, L093*.” is the definitive guidance on the management and use of radioactive materials in schools and colleges in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Updated in 2024 this guidance has been cleared by all the relevant government and agencies and its use is recommended by the Department for Education.

12.3 The CLEAPSS Locally Managed RPA Service (formerly the CLEAPSS Local Authority RPA service)

This is an ‘RPA at a distance’ service and is available to local authorities or other employing organisations. The stipulations are that-

- All the schools/colleges included are members of CLEAPSS.
- The organisation must have a centralised administration structure that can oversee the management of radioactive sources through regular monitoring visits to the schools/colleges included. These visits should be by a Radiation Protection Officer (RPO) who could be either, an employee of the organisation (e.g. an adviser or safety officer) or an external consultant who is independent from the schools/colleges holding the sources. (CLEAPSS offers a 1-day training course for RPOs)
- The sources held by the schools/colleges are included within the standard school holding as defined in the CLEAPSS guide “*Managing ionising radiations and Radioactive substances in Schools and Colleges, L093*.”

Once membership is agreed CLEAPSS will provide a letter of appointment for the employer to complete appointing CLEAPSS RPA body as their source of radiation protection advice and identifying a named fully qualified RPA who will act as their immediate point of contact.

This approach can be cost-effective as one RPA can provide advice to many schools. Charges for this service are based on a fixed fee per school to be included (see appendix i for details). For further information about the CLEAPSS locally managed RPA service please see Guide RPA001 available on the CLEAPSS secondary science website www.cleapss.org.uk

12.4 CLEAPSS RPA DIRECT

This service is only available in exceptional circumstances to individual schools who cannot access the CLEAPSS locally managed RPA service through a local organisation and/or are unable to identify a suitable RPA who can be appointed directly. Please see CLEAPSS guide PS046 for a list of suitable RPAs and contact CLEAPSS for further advice if needed.

Appendix i: CLEAPSS charges 2026/2027

UK school & college membership

Member	Subscription period	Population on which 2026/27 subscription will be based.	Cost per pupil (pence)
Local authorities	April 2026 – March 2027	Pupils aged 5 – 19 years inclusive, taken from most recent school's census.	18p
Any school or college subscribing to CLEAPSS via a local authority	April 2026 – March 2027	Pupils aged 5 – 19 years inclusive, taken from most recent school's census. Local authorities normally add a service charge.	18p
Any school or college subscribing to CLEAPSS via a MAT or other non-LA membership broker*	Oct 2026 – Sept 2027	Pupils aged 5 – 19 years inclusive, taken from most recent school census charged at the appropriate fee for the key stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS1&2, 27p per pupil • KS 3-5, 35p per pupil 	27p /35p
Any school or college subscribing to CLEAPSS directly**	Rolling membership – Anniversary of date of first joining	Pupils aged 5 – 19 years inclusive, taken from most recent school census charged at the appropriate fee for the key stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS1&2, 27p per pupil • KS 3-5, 35p per pupil 	27p /35p
*Note: for details of brokering fees and discounts please see the CLEAPSS Membership Charter			
**Note: direct membership of CLEAPSS is subject to minimum and maximum fees – see below.			

Minimum and maximum fees for schools and colleges in the UK

Pupil population	Minimum fee	Maximum Fee
KS1&2 pupils only	£54.00	£540.00
KS1 to 5 pupils	£125.00	£700.00
KS1 to 5 pupils (special schools and PRUs)	£72.00	£700.00

Other membership categories

Type of member	Subscription period	Subscription for 2026/27
Teacher-training establishments	Rolling membership	£140.00 flat rate
Not-for-Profit (Associate)	Rolling membership	£190.00 flat rate
Overseas member	Rolling membership	£235.00 per year flat rate
Individual Science, D&T or H&S advisers	Rolling membership	£85.00 flat rate
Commercial (Associate)	Rolling membership	£390.00 flat rate
Higher education subject department (Associate)	Rolling membership	£330.00 flat rate

CLEAPSS Locally managed Radiation Protection Adviser Service

The current charge to the provider of the locally managed service is £65.00 per school holding radioactive sources.

This service is only currently available to schools/colleges subscribing to CLEAPSS via a Local authority or other employing or brokering organisation.

Other charges including training

Attending a CLEAPSS-organised and run face to face course:	£175.00 per delegate
Attending a CLEAPSS online training event	£98.00 per delegate
CLEAPSS running a course for a school (venue to supply room, refreshments, ICT etc.)	£1060.00
H&S Audits / School Visits / Consultancy Work / Radiation Service Visit	£1185.00 (+ VAT) per CLEAPSS adviser per day
Review work on publications	£145.00 per hour.

Please note: -

All the above charges are for CLEAPSS members only. If you are not a member, please get in touch to discuss costs.

Appendix ii CLEAPSS courses – 2026 onwards

Introduction
Introduction to supporting Physics teaching
Introduction to supporting Chemistry & Biology teaching
Biology/microbiology courses
Technical Support for Microbiology theory course (online)
Microbiology – antimicrobials
Chemistry
Reduced and micro-scale Chemistry (half day)
Safety with chemicals for technicians
Management of chemicals in school science departments (online)
Physics
Supporting safe and successful classroom Physics
Radiation Protection Supervisor training
Radiation Protection Supervisor training (online)
Radiation Protection Officer Training
Radiation Protection Officer Training (online)
Skills and techniques
Safety examination of autoclaves, pressure cookers and model steam engines
Microscopes: maintenance and use
Fume Cupboard testing (half day)
Health and safety
Introduction to Health & Safety for science technicians (online – self-study - free to members)
Introduction to Health & Safety for science technicians follow on course (online)
Health & Safety for science technicians
Health & Safety in practical science for early career teachers
Health & Safety for science teachers (online – unmediated - free to members)
Health and Safety management for Heads of Science
Health & Safety for the Science Department (PRIVATE course only)
Prep room management and H&S for senior science technicians
Auditing Science departments and H&S management
D&T
Health & safety in Design Technology self-study course (online – unmediated - free to members)
Health & safety in Design Technology follow on course (online)
Auditing Health & Safety in Design Technology for Safety Officers
Audit training for D&T, Food and Art departments (online)
Assessing and managing risk in art and design
Health & safety management in D&T
Health & Safety Management in D&T for Safety Officers
D&T Department Safety (PRIVATE course only)
Primary science and technology
Practical science in the primary classroom
Practical D&T in the primary classroom

Appendix iii CLEAPSS staffing

The staffing of CLEAPSS is as follows:

Steve Jones	<i>Director</i>
Matt Endean	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Ben Chantrell	<i>Section leader - Biology</i>
Bob Worley	<i>Part-time Adviser</i>
Olivia Rodney	<i>Adviser</i>
Ralph Witcher	<i>Part-time Adviser and RPA for CLEAPSS</i>
Dave Parry	<i>Adviser</i>
Trudi Barrow	<i>Part-time Adviser</i>
Charlotte Greenland	<i>Section Leader – Technical Services</i>
Sally Berry	<i>Office Manager</i>
Rebecca McGurn	<i>Finance Manager</i>
Jodie DeVille	<i>Deputy Office Manager</i>
Jeff Ingham	<i>IT and Website Adviser</i>
Ryan Brown	<i>IT Systems & User Support Manager</i>
Rebecca Brant	<i>Technician</i>
Kay Pankhania	<i>Administrative Officer</i>
Helen Shipley	<i>Courses Development Manager</i>
Ai-Linh Tran	<i>Adviser</i>
Magda Polec	<i>Adviser</i>
Matthew Boyce	<i>Administrative Officer</i>
Nina Dluzewska	<i>Administrative Officer</i>
Joanna Conn	<i>RPA service manager</i>

CLEAPSS also makes use of the services of a team of consultants who run some of our courses, write guidance, etc. These include:

Peter Borrows	<i>Former Director of CLEAPSS</i>
Phil Bunyan	<i>Former Director of CLEAPSS</i>
Chris Haines	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Andrea Mapplebeck	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Jason Harding	<i>Primary Science Lead</i>
Maria Pack	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Mary Howell	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Stephanie Shaw	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Samir Moezzi	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Phil Jones	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Tracey Black	<i>Senior Science Technician</i>
Grainne McAdam	<i>Senior Science Technician</i>
Simon Quinnell	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Paul Cook	<i>Senior Science Technician</i>
Sally Fulford	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Peter Hoare	<i>Education Consultant</i>
David Paterson	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Sandy Tran	<i>Science Technician</i>
Rob Kurnatowski	<i>Science Technician</i>
Helen Spring	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Saba Tyson	<i>Education Consultant</i>
Sarah Davies	<i>Education Consultant</i>