

Primary Science Conference for Headteachers and Science Leaders

Promoting the positive impact of science on student outcomes.

This is an opportunity for headteachers and senior leaders of science to reflect strategically on the science provisions within their schools. Input from an OFSTED inspector with a specialism in science, can be considered within a local context in order to ensure that this core subject is impacting positively on student and school outcomes.

Outline for the event:

1.00pm	Welcome: Kate Walter; STEM introductions
1.15pm	An OFSTED perspective on Science, Helen Lane, HMI
2.00pm	Leading effective learning in science - Matching practice to vision, Mick Dunne
3.00pm	The challenge and opportunities for local schools, Matthew Langley
3.30pm	Closing remarks and feedback: Kate Walter

Outcomes and Details

- ▶ To provide a clear view of OFSTED's key priorities in Primary Science.
- ▶ To support senior leaders in establishing a strategic vision for Science.
- ▶ To identify elements of outstanding practice.

Code:	RB101G04
Ideal for:	Headteachers, Senior Leaders
Age:	3 - 11 Years
Length:	Half Day
Date:	4 th October 2016 (moved from 5 th July 2016), 1.00pm - 3.30pm
Venue	The STEM Centre, University of Bradford
Course fee:	£55 or £110 (independent school/ college)

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For information regarding other CPD opportunities please visit: www.stem.org.uk/cpd

Developed and delivered in collaboration with Northern Lights - a Science Learning Partnership.

A clear steer from Ofsted on the vital importance of primary science

On 19 May 2016, Ofsted's Chief Inspector, Sir Michael Wilshaw, commented on the study of science in primary schools stating that science has become a 'poor relation' of the primary school curriculum. He stated that:

“when taught well, Science can boost skills and raise standards in English and mathematics.” and that “The emphasis in recent years on English and mathematics at key should not be at the expense of other important subjects.”

HMI reviewed the quality and breadth of provision in primary science finding that:

- a lack of time was allocated to the study of science
- there was a lack of teaching expertise

While the vast majority of schools were spending 4+ hours each week teaching English and mathematics, none devoted a similar time to teaching science, the third core subject of the primary curriculum. HMI found that the quality of science teaching was variable and that there was a link between teachers' subject knowledge and how well pupils were developing their scientific skills. Inspectors found that the best primary schools are capable of providing effective teaching in science and all other subjects, without undermining pupils' progress in literacy and numeracy.

It should not be an 'either/or' situation. The best primary schools recognise that providing excellent teaching in science promotes good literacy and numeracy skills. This complements, rather than detracts from, the focus on English and mathematics.

Ofsted's inspections of primary schools in recent years have prioritised the quality of provision in English and mathematics. However, Sir Michael continues, *“the evidence from this recent investigation suggests the need to put as sharp a focus on other subjects as we do on English and mathematics.”* Inspectors have been reminded that they “should always be looking closely at the subjects of the wider primary curriculum” including science, as set out in the Ofsted inspection handbook.

Where your local Science Learning Partnership fits in...

Ofsted and the DfE are giving us a clear message not to continue allowing science to be the “poor relation” of the core subjects and that its profile must be raised again. **That begins with your teaching staff accessing the highest quality CPD training available.**

All of the following individual day courses can be tailored to your school's specific needs and delivered via bespoke INSET days or twilights at your school for your whole staff. This often proves to be a highly **cost effective** means of CPD provision and a clear, shared understanding between all maximises impact.

We offer a full suite of primary courses which directly fulfil the requirements set out by HMI. We will help you to develop your teaching staff's expertise, leading to raised attainment in science, whilst also enhancing English and Mathematics skills.