

Science In Schools – November UK 2008 - Update

UK Network

Lead organisation(s) and contact details

1. Business in the Community
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Organisations making up the co-ordinating forum

Companies & Industry Organisations	Education Organisations Inc Government and Not-for-Profit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IBM • BiTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC

Other organisations in the wider Science In Schools network

Companies & Industry Organisations	Education Organisations Inc Government and Not-for-Profit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC

Maths, Science and Technology Education in the UK

High Level STEM Strategy

Addressing STEM Education issues is a key priority for the UK Government. Led by Prof. John Holman, National STEM Director, the government in the UK has developed and is now implementing a 'High Level STEM Strategy'. All STEM education activities are intended to fit within one or more of the 11 Action Programmes agreed within the Strategy and all parties involved in STEM education, from across Government, business, academia and the voluntary sector are being very strongly encouraged to support their activities and to ensure their programmes and initiatives fit within the agreed framework of programmes.

The 11 Action Programmes to raise standards and increase equality and diversity are:

Recruitment of Teachers and Lecturers

AP1 Improving the recruitment of teachers and lecturers in shortage subjects

Continuing professional development of teachers and lecturers

AP2. Improving teaching and learning through CPD for mathematics teachers

AP3. Improving teaching and learning through CPD for science teachers

AP4. Improving teaching and learning by engaging teachers with engineering and technology

Enhancing and enriching the curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom, to motivate students towards STEM

AP5. Enhancing and enriching the science curriculum.

AP6. Enhancing and enriching the teaching of engineering and technology across the curriculum

AP7. Enhancing and enriching the teaching of mathematics.

AP8. Improving the quality of advice and guidance for students (and their teachers and parents) about STEM careers, to inform subject choice.

AP9. Widening access to the formal science and mathematics curriculum for all students, including access to triple science and second mathematics GCSE

AP10. Improving the quality of practical work in science.

Improving infrastructure and delivery mechanisms

AP11 Programme to build capacity of the national, regional and local infrastructure.

Transition to Teaching:

The Government has also supported the development of a programme designed to promote 2nd careers in teaching to employees in mid to late career stages, from all sectors, who possess STEM degrees. The programme, 'Transition to Teaching' is led by the Department for Children, Schools & Families and the related 'Training & Development Agency' who have responsibility for teacher recruitment in England. The development of the programme has been led and championed by IBM. Since its launch in May 2008 by the Prime Minister more than 160 employers and influencing organisations have signed up to support the programme and 60+ individuals are actively exploring the option to become a teacher or have commenced a teacher training course.

Priorities and aims of Science in Schools Network in UK

Completed activities

Planned activities