

Science
LEARNING CENTRES



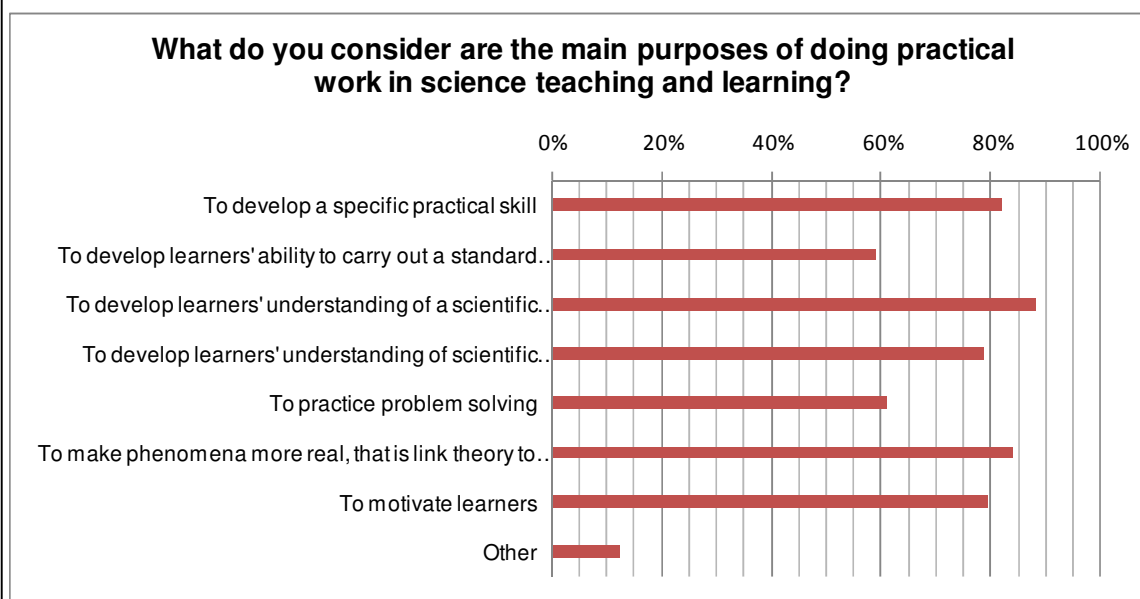
Practical Work Survey Results

March 2010



Q1. What do you consider are the main purposes of doing practical work in science teaching and learning?

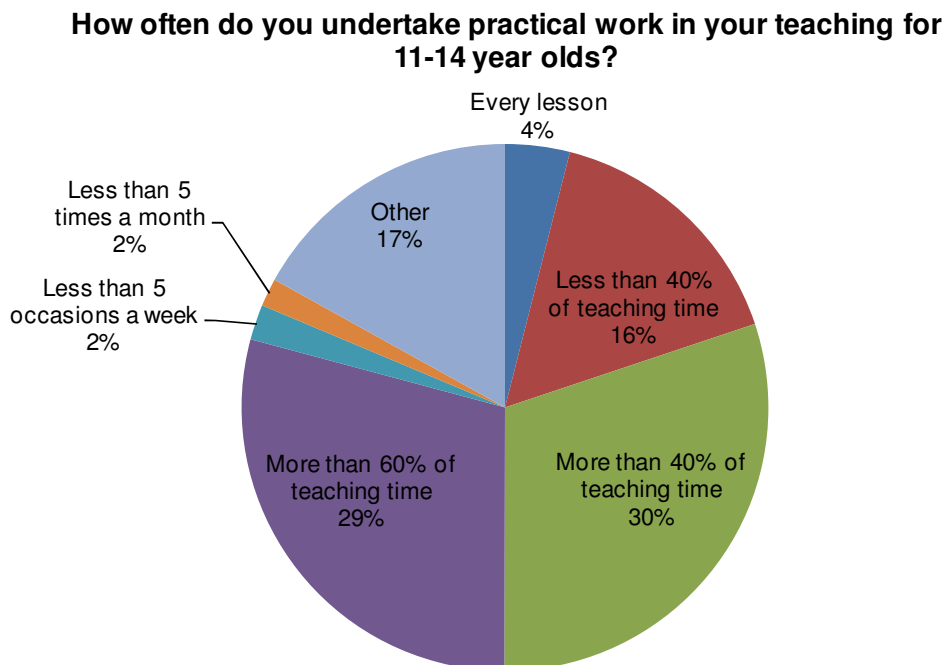
Answers	# responses	Percentage of all respondents
To develop a specific practical skill	1098	82%
To develop learners' ability to carry out a standard process	787	59%
To develop learners' understanding of a scientific concept	1182	88%
To develop learners' understanding of scientific enquiry	1053	79%
To practice problem solving	816	61%
To make phenomena more real, that is link theory to practice	1124	84%
To motivate learners	1063	79%
Other	166	12%



This question allowed more than one selection and so the above graph shows the percentage of the total number of survey responses that selected each option.

Q2. How often do you undertake practical work in your teaching for 11-14 year olds?

Answers	# respondents	Percentage
Every lesson	53	3.96%
Less than 40% of teaching time	213	15.91%
More than 40% of teaching time	404	30.17%
More than 60% of teaching time	390	29.13%
Less than 5 occasions a week	29	2.17%
Less than 5 times a month	23	1.72%
Other	227	16.95%

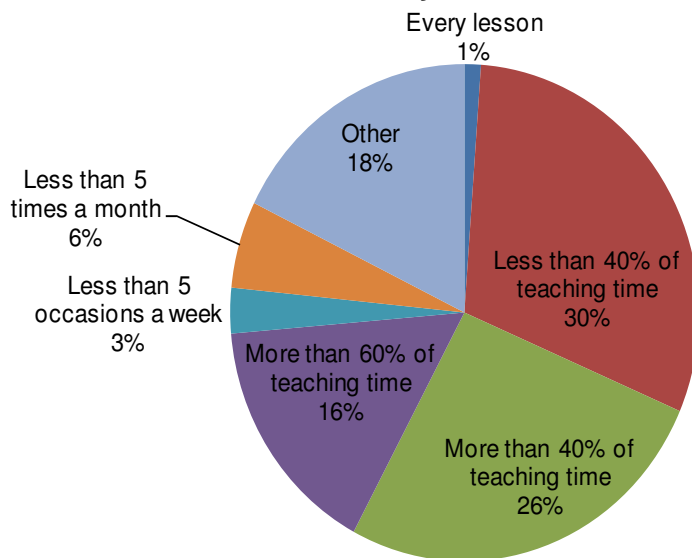


There was only 1 answer allowed for this question and so the pie chart shows the percentage of responses that chose that option.

Q3. How often do you undertake practical work in your teaching for 14-16 year olds?

Answer	# respondents	Percentage
Every lesson	15	1.12%
Less than 40% of teaching time	407	30.40%
More than 40% of teaching time	352	26.29%
More than 60% of teaching time	212	15.83%
Less than 5 occasions a week	40	2.99%
Less than 5 times a month	76	5.68%
Other	237	17.70%

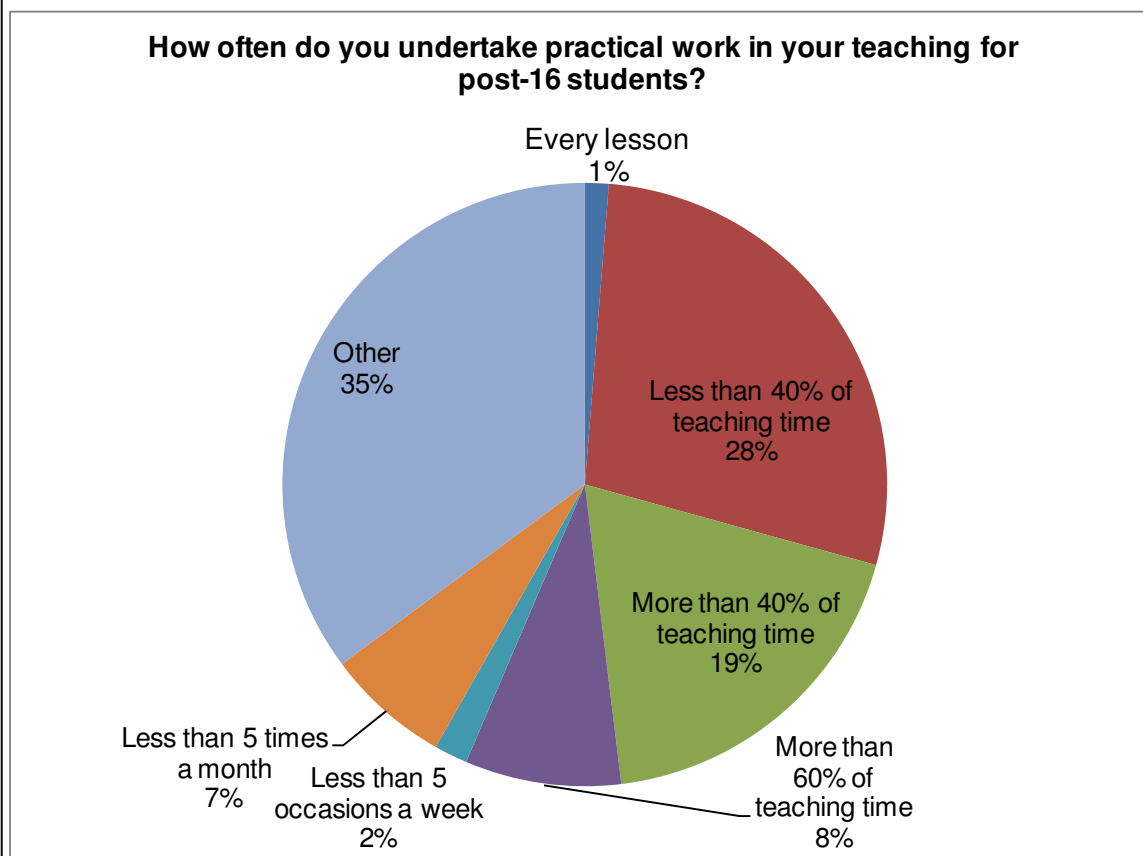
How often do you undertake practical work in your teaching for 14-16 year olds?



There was only 1 answer allowed for this question and so the pie chart shows the percentage of respondents that chose that option.

Q4. How often do you undertake practical work in your teaching for post-16 students?

Answer	# respondents	Percentage
Every lesson	17	1.27%
Less than 40% of teaching time	375	28.03%
More than 40% of teaching time	251	18.76%
More than 60% of teaching time	112	8.37%
Less than 5 occasions a week	24	1.79%
Less than 5 times a month	89	6.65%
Other	470	35.13%

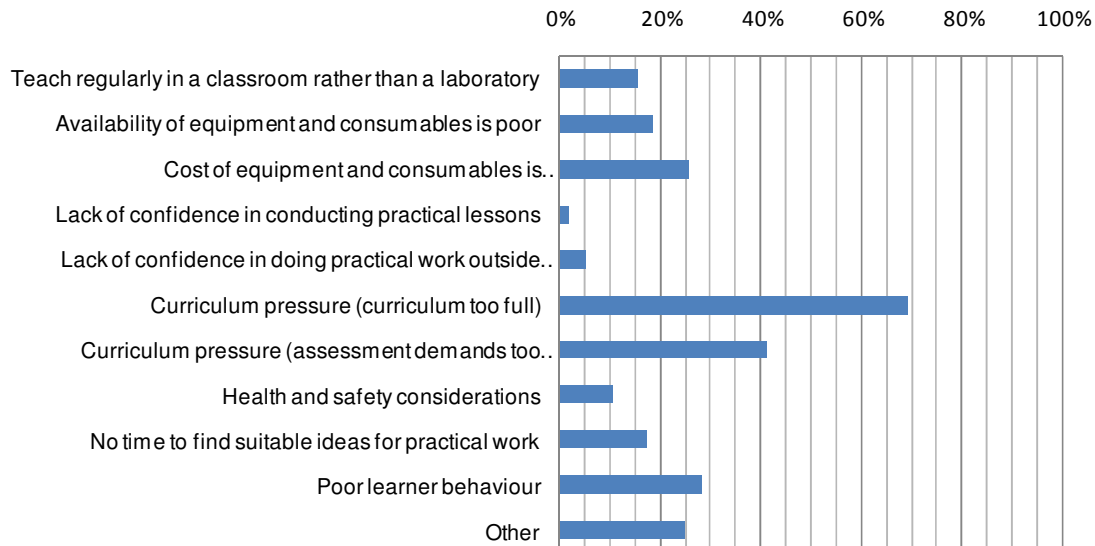


There was only 1 answer allowed for this question and so the pie chart shows the percentage of respondents that chose that option.

Q5. In a typical term, which factors hinder you from doing practical work?

Answer	# responses	Percentage of all respondents
Teach regularly in a classroom rather than a laboratory	209	15.61%
Availability of equipment and consumables is poor	246	18.37%
Cost of equipment and consumables is prohibitive/ department budget is low	342	25.54%
Lack of confidence in conducting practical lessons	26	1.94%
Lack of confidence in doing practical work outside subject specialist area	68	5.08%
Curriculum pressure (curriculum too full)	928	69.31%
Curriculum pressure (assessment demands too frequent)	552	41.22%
Health and safety considerations	141	10.53%
No time to find suitable ideas for practical work	232	17.33%
Poor learner behaviour	376	28.08%

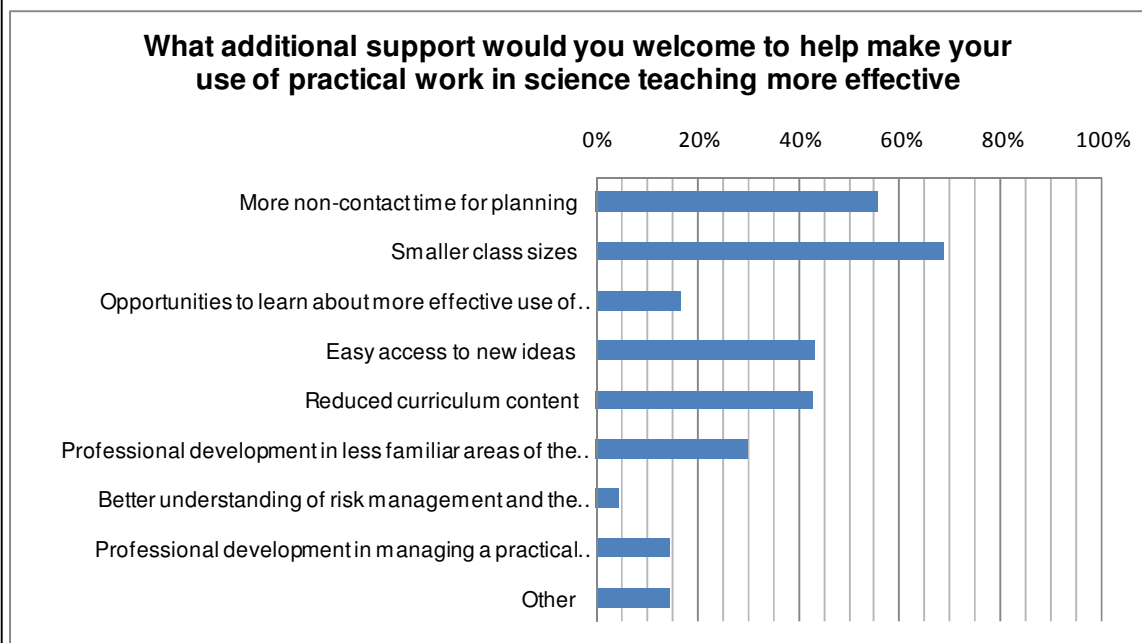
In a typical term, which factors hinder you from doing practical work?



This question allowed more than one selection and so the above graph shows the percentage of the total number of survey responses that selected each option.

Q7. What additional support would you welcome to help make your use of practical work in science teaching more effective?

Answers	# responses	Percentage of all respondents
More non-contact time for planning	746	55.71%
Smaller class sizes	919	68.63%
Opportunities to learn about more effective use of adults in a supporting role	222	16.58%
Easy access to new ideas	579	43.24%
Reduced curriculum content	576	43.02%
Professional development in less familiar areas of the curriculum	403	30.10%
Better understanding of risk management and the health and safety regulations	63	4.71%
Professional development in managing a practical classroom	196	14.64%
Other	197	14.71%

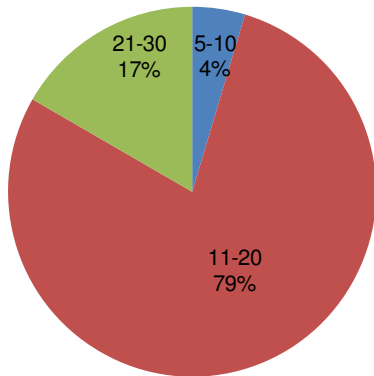


This question allowed more than one selection and so the above graph shows the percentage of the total number of survey responses that selected each option.

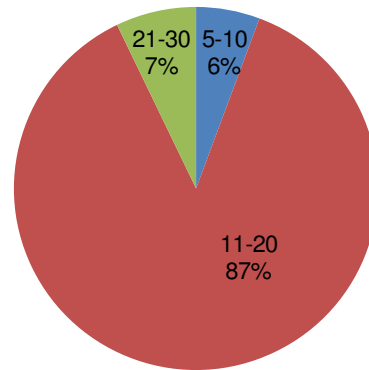
Q8. What do you think is the ideal class size for the effective use of practical work in science teaching?

Class Size	Age 11-14		Age 14-16		Post-16	
	# of respondents	Percentage of all	# of respondents	Percentage of all	# of respondents	Percentage of all
5-10	57	4.63%	69	5.66%	602	50.67%
11-20	969	78.72%	1063	87.20%	568	47.81%
21-30	205	16.65%	87	7.14%	18	1.52%
Other	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

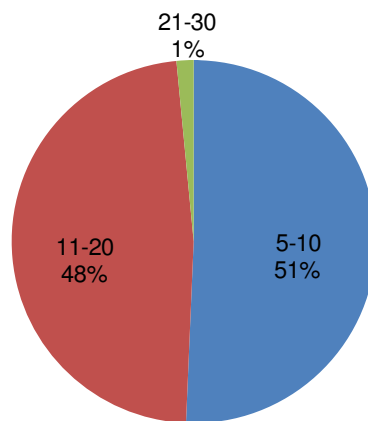
Age 11-14 - Class size



Age 14-16 - Class Size



Post-16 - Class Size



There was only 1 answer allowed for each part of this question and so the pie charts show the percentage of respondents that chose that option.