

Improving Practical Work in Science



Getting Practical – Improving Practical Work in Science Programme is being run by a consortium of partners led by the Association for Science Education. The programme aims to support teachers of science and their colleagues in raising the quality of the practical science work that they teach. Getting Practical is aiming to provide a sustainable professional development package that teachers can use to reflect on and assess the effectiveness of their practical science teaching and boost the confidence of non-specialists for the benefit of the young people’s learning and engagement with science. Through a structured network of programme trainers, professional development opportunities will be made available to teachers and technicians in England at both primary and secondary levels in their local areas. The professional development package has been designed by the national network of Science Learning Centres and the Centre for Science Education at Sheffield Hallam University,

following consultations with teacher reference groups and experts in science education. Two such experts are Robin Millar from the University of York and Ian Abrahams from the University of London Institute of Education. Their article ‘Practical work: making it more effective’, which follows, has formed the basis for the training package and brings together their own research into practical science provision with that of others. Their article provides an excellent introduction to the Getting Practical series, setting the scene for the professional development package that will form the core of the programme.

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Getting Practical – Improving Practical Work in Science Programme is funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, with coordinating partners the Association for Science Education, CLEAPSS, the National Network of Science Learning Centres and the Centre for Science Education at Sheffield Hallam University. Contributing partners include the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, the Institute of Physics, the Institute of Biology, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Gatsby Science Enhancement Programme and the National STEM Centre, with support from Science Community Representing Education (SCORE), the Royal Society and Gatsby Science and Plants for Schools. The independent evaluators are the University of London Institute of Education.