

Reasons for primary schools to belong to CLEAPSS

Peace of mind for Head Teachers, Governors and Trustees

At the heart of any primary school, and paramount in the mind of any school's leaders, is the wellbeing and safety of the children and staff. The advice and guidance from CLEAPSS supports Head Teachers, Governors, Trustees, Teachers and other members of staff in ensuring that practical activities are safe and engaging learning experiences.

Membership of CLEAPSS is best likened to pro-active insurance – actively reducing the chances of an accident or incident whilst at the same time promoting engaging practical activities for pupils.

Health and Safety at work - Employers' statutory responsibilities

The introduction of the Health and Safety at Work Act in 1974 had a significant impact on the teaching of practical subjects. CLEAPSS quickly engaged with this in order to support schools to maintain their practical work. As well as science, CLEAPSS expanded its remit to include D&T and recently art & design, and now provides model risk assessments (MRAs) for practical activities in these subjects for schools and colleges.

Membership of CLEAPSS enables an employer to discharge its duties under the 1974 H&SW Act and its subsequent Regulations, in respect of these subject areas.

These require employers to protect their employees by, for example, providing safe working conditions, information, training for health and safety, and (model) risk assessments for activities (required under a range of regulations, including COSHH).

CLEAPSS advice and documentation is recognised by the Health and Safety Executive and the Department for Education as the definitive basis for safe practice in practical work in schools and colleges.

In the absence of CLEAPSS membership the employer, be it the governors or trustees, must consider how to fulfil its duties under the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act and its subsequent regulations.

Membership of CLEAPSS provides a one stop shop approach to satisfying the school's responsibilities in relation to the teaching of science, design & technology and art and design.

CLEAPSS is about so much more than health and safety

In addition to H&S guidance CLEAPSS provides advice on ways to carry out practical activities so that they work, are safe, and are effective at supporting learning. CLEAPSS has facilities at its offices on the campus of Brunel University that enable it to test equipment and try out new ideas for practical work. As a result over the last 50 years CLEAPSS and its staff have developed a wealth of experience devising and evaluating practical activities and equipment.

CLEAPSS provides support and advice to teachers and learning support assistants (LSAs) on how best to use high quality practical work to support pupils learning in science, design & technology and, most recently, art & design.

CLEAPSS resources give teachers & LSAs ideas for exciting and engaging practical activities that fire pupils' imaginations and then, unlike many other sources of ideas, go on to show teachers and LSAs how to translate the ideas into exciting and safe experiences in the classroom.

Membership benefits include:-

- **CLEAPSS telephone and e-mail helpline** Access throughout the year (not just term time) to a team of dedicated subject experts for up-to-the-minute advice and support.
- **Termly newsletter** for Primary schools which provides a range of information on practical work in science and technology and on current health and safety issues.
- **CLEAPSS web site** (www.cleapss.org.uk) which makes advice and guidance for science, technology, food and art & design, available to all relevant staff on demand, subject to annually-changed log-in details. CLEAPSS is committed to regular review and updating of these resources so that they always offer members the most relevant advice.
- **Model Risk Assessments** which support subject coordinators, teachers and other staff to plan and safely carryout practical activities in science technology and Art
- **Advice on equipment and facilities** Independent advice on all aspects of the design and equipping of specialist accommodation for science, technology, food and art.
- **CPD courses** Access to one-day practical science and health and safety training courses delivered by the advisers from CLEAPSS and offered at the members rate of £110 per delegate.

Remember – CLEAPSS offers independent advice:- because we are free from any tie in with commercial, non-commercial or government organisations our guidance is completely impartial.

How to access CLEAPSS services

- **Directly.** Primary schools can join CLEAPSS directly by taking up Associate membership. For 2015-16 this costs 18 pence per pupil.
- **Through a local authority.** All but two local authorities offer schools opportunity to be members of CLEAPSS through them – some offer membership to schools outside their area. They will charge you a fee for this but it is likely to work out cheaper than joining CLEAPSS directly - speak to the science adviser or health and safety officer in your local authority.
- **Through a health and safety of curriculum support organisation.** Increasingly many independent organisations can offer membership of CLEAPSS. It may be included as part of a wider package of services.

Excellent value for money

CLEAPSS membership might cost a typical primary school £60.00 per year. In the absence of CLEAPSS support what could you buy with this money? The cost for technical/legal advice in the event of an incident or accident might easily run into thousands of pounds.

For the peace of mind of knowing that expert advice in science and technology is only a phone call or e-mail away. We believe the real question is "Why wouldn't you belong to CLEAPSS?"

If you would like to discuss CLEAPSS membership further please do not hesitate to contact me.



Steve Jones

Director,