

Julia Buckingham, SCORE Chair, comments on release of Ofsted Science report, 'Maintaining Curiosity'

We welcome the messages contained in the Ofsted Science survey report. Discovering, experiencing and investigating phenomena are essential learning activities for children developing core understanding and knowledge in science at school. There is no doubt that maintaining the curiosity of both teachers and pupils drives high-quality science provision and excellent school outcomes.

SCORE believes that the importance of *doing* science should be at the heart of any school planning for science. In May 2013 SCORE released the Resourcing Practical Science in primary and secondary schools reports which published research into whether schools are resourced adequately to teach an authentic experience of practical science; the resultant SCORE benchmarks for practical work support visionary teaching and leadership in science.

As a partnership organisation bringing together professional and subject expertise in science education, SCORE works to ensure that science education policy facilitates this emphasis on practical science and learning through experience in policy.

We believe that visionary teachers and an informed senior leadership can improve, maintain and transform science education in their schools. We hope that schools will look to SCORE and other science education organisations for support in developing and embedding Sir Michael Wilshaw's message that *doing* science is the basis for *understanding* it.