

Note of the 2014 January SCORE Committee meeting

This paper is a note of the SCORE Committee held on 21 January 2014.

A-level reform

The Committee considered how to follow-up on SCORE recommendations made in response to the Department for Education and Ofqual consultations on A-level sciences. It was agreed that it was important to expand on SCORE recommendations surrounding the assessment of practical work and that the best way in which to do so would be to develop a set of principles that could be used to guide and monitor change.

Horizon-scanning event

An update was given on the SCORE horizon-scanning event held on 16 January 2014. It was noted that several items arose at the meeting that required review from the SCORE Committee such as the status of science in primary schools and the role of subject specialist training for teachers. The Committee agreed that the event had been a valuable opportunity to draw views from the wider science education community and make plans to work together.

Making and deciding policy – strategic priority 2014

The Committee discussed plans to introduce a new strand to SCORE strategic priorities focussed on the process by which education policy is made. A working group of Committee members was convened and it was agreed that the next step would be to begin discussing and drafting a position on how science education policy should be carried out.

SCORE communications

The SCORE communications plan and communications strategy was reviewed. The Committee discussed ways in which to make best use of communications in line with new objectives for 2014. It was agreed that in advance of planning publications or events, the main priority for SCORE would be to consolidate past policy positions. It was noted that in doing so, SCORE policy would be made more accessible to the public and policy-makers; this would be particularly facilitated through a content restructure of the SCORE website.

The next SCORE Committee meeting will be held on Thursday 6 March 2014.