

Note of the 2014 March SCORE Committee meeting

This paper is a note of the SCORE Committee held on 6 March 2014.

Practical work in A-level assessment

The Committee discussed ways in which to follow up SCORE's recently published Principles for the Assessment of Practical Work. Suggestions included developing a project by which a framework of assessment in practical science could be defined. The Committee also discussed the wider accountability framework in which schools operate, noting that further engagement with Ofsted could inspire richer and more inclusive frameworks of accountability for practical science.

Making and deciding policy – strategic priority 2014

It was confirmed that SCORE will undertake a project in 2014 to define a set of guidelines or criteria against which positive and effective policy is developed and decided in education. The document on best practice in education policy was intended to provide a tangible reference for future policy-making, removed from political or ideological persuasion. The SCORE working group would take forward the creation of the document with input from the SCORE Committee and at a later stage engage stakeholders on the working document. It would be launched in summer 2014.

The professional structure of teaching

The Committee discussed several areas in teaching that were of concern. This included the question of changes to allocation of subject knowledge enhancement course to teacher training providers and the impact that this would have on the specialist knowledge of teachers. It was agreed that a lack of evidence surrounding recruitment to subject knowledge enhancement and initial teacher training places meant that the consequences of policy changes were difficult to evaluate or predict. The question of a definition of subject specialist teaching in the sciences was raised, including a discussion of ways in which to develop Chartered status for teachers, as proposed in the College of Teaching blueprint released by the Prince's Teaching Institute.

SCORE strategy

It was noted that the SCORE work plan for 2014-15 was being finalised and that funding had been secured for the following three years.

The next SCORE Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 April 2014.