

Best Practice Guidance

Guidance on Professional Recognition

Context

It is through the process of engagement in CPD and reflection as part of professional practice that a model of professionalism develops. For technicians and teachers in schools and colleges, an appropriate qualification is only the starting point for the status of a professional. Professionalism involves dedicated practice to continually develop high standards of technical and ethical competence. This benefits the individual, the students and employers, in a manner that supports other professionals and reflects positively on the standing and integrity of the profession.

The position of ASE

Professional development is at the heart of ASE activity as a thriving community of science educators, who are passionate about science teaching and learning, and are actively engaged with their own professional learning. ASE holds professional registers in order that science educators can be recognised for this commitment to professional development. ASE provides opportunities at local, regional, and national level for science educators, to continually develop their own professional learning, understanding and practice

Best practice should seek to include:

- Engagement with continuing professional development and learning to ensure that science educators reflect on their practice and keep up to date.
- Membership of a professional subject association
- Establishment of a professional learning journey, such that within 2 years of achieving Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) teacher members will be ready to apply for recognition as a Registered Scientist (RSci)
- Opportunity for technician members with demonstrable skills and experience to apply for Registered Science Technician (RSciTech)
- The opportunity to be recognised as a chartered teacher after 4 years or more experience. The recognition offered by the ASE is Chartered Science Teacher CSciTeach
- All registrations should be renewed annually to ensure continuing professional development and learning with associated reflection in and on practice
- Recognition should be available to all who promote excellence in science teaching and learning, whatever their job status

Web links

Information on the ASE registers <http://www.ase.org.uk/professional-development/>

Information on the Science Council who provide the license to award registrations
<http://sciencecouncil.org/scientists-science-technicians/>

Royal Society of Biology Professional registration <https://www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/registers>

Royal Society of Chemistry offers RSci, RSciTeach and CSciTeach
<http://www.rsc.org/careers/cpd/>

The Institute of Physics offer chartered status for physicists
http://www.iop.org/membership/char-sta/page_61582.html

STEM Learning offer the opportunity to be recognised through their STEM Educator accreditation <https://www.stem.org.uk/stem-educators>