

Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (SSERC)

The Scottish Schools Education Research Centre (SSERC) is a registered charity. It draws funding from a range of sources, including Government and local authorities.

The Government is providing funding to SSERC for up-skilling of both primary and secondary teachers in the delivery of science and technologies education within Curriculum for Excellence. We have committed to a three year funding period (ending 2014/15), providing £900,000 per annum.

We are also providing some additional support, £30,000 pa this year and next, to support a recent extension to their premises. In addition to the science lab which the original building provides, a newly refurbished adjacent building now offers a larger space for running courses, alongside bespoke facilities for teaching technical subjects.

SSERC's core training programme reaches approximately 1,800 teachers, student teachers, and technicians each year. The programme includes residential courses for secondary subject teachers, offers science and technology teaching resources, and delivers e-learning sessions through Glow (the Scottish schools intranet). SSERC also offer an information and advisory service to schools, which includes providing advice to schools on health and safety matters.

SSERC are also running a 3 year pilot programme specifically targeting the development needs of primary teachers, an area for development highlighted in the 2012 Science and Engineering Education Advisory Group (SEEAG) report. Local authority participation in the programme has increased from 6 in 2012/13 to 9 authorities in 2013/14, and from 10 to 14 school clusters respectively. On-going support is being provided for those teachers who took on the role of mentors in the first year of the programme, and an external evaluation is under way. The programme involves direct support from SSERC, and also provides a portfolio of professional development workshops offered by SSERC partners and associates which teachers can access.

Further information on SSERC can be found at http://www.sserc.org.uk/images/Publicity/SSERC_Info_Leaflet_proof1_May2012-1.pdf

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