

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What support does the RSC provide for Schools and Colleges?

Please ask for a copy of our leaflet Educational Activities for Schools and Colleges also available at (http://www.chemsoc.org/networks/learnnet/ed_acts_s_c.htm)

2. What is the difference between Education Division and Education Department?

Education Division is run by the members interested in education for the members. The Education Department delivers RSC strategy on the guidance of Council.

3. What does the RSC do for initial teacher training (PGCE etc)?

The RSC advises the government body, the TDA, that controls ITT. The RSC sends its materials to PGCE tutors.

4. What does the RSC do to assist non-chemists in teaching the subject?

The RSC has in place the Chemistry for Non-Specialists (CFNS) courses in conjunction with DfES and GlaxoSmithKline. These aim to raise the confidence and enthusiasm of non-specialist chemistry teachers in both theory and practical work.

5. How does the RSC send its materials to schools?

By mailing a copy of all the new resources to the 'Teacher in Charge of Chemistry'.

6. Is sending free resources to schools the right approach?

Charging would disenfranchise the hard to reach schools. The evaluation of RSC materials (www.rsc.org/Education/policy/evaluation2004.asp) noted the problem and suggested enhanced publicity.

7. Does the RSC provide careers advice for school students?

Yes – materials (posters, leaflets, CD ROM) UCAS fairs, working with the Science Council and the Careers from Science website. Many of our leaflets can be requested, free of charge from education@rsc.org.

8. Should teachers become members of the RSC? What might the barriers be to this?

Of course. Barriers should only be financial in that union membership, General Teaching Council membership and ASE membership may have priority.

9. How does the Education Department check that its activities are appropriate?

By regular independent external evaluations (see www.rsc.org/Education/policy/education.asp).

10. How are Education activities and resources communicated to Local Sections?

Via the Education Communications Specialist, through RSC News and Education in Chemistry; email updates etc.

10. Why don't teachers get free membership of the RSC?

It would not be equitable. University lecturers are often paid less.

12. Can schools outside the UK sign up to receive RSC educational material?

Yes – via the Schools and Colleges Publications Service (SCPS) (www.rsc.org/education/teachers/scps.asp). An annual subscription costs £79 to overseas parties.

13. Do you have to be an RSC member to attend RSC courses?

No, but members get a substantial discount.

14. Are the RSC courses any good?

Yes – independent external evaluation details at (www.rsc.org/education/policy/evaluation2004.asp)

15. How do I enter students into RSC competitions?

e.g. Top of the Bench – via Local Sections or (www.rsc.org/education/schoolstudents/totb.asp)
Olympiad – via poster in Education in Chemistry or online at (www.rsc.org/education/schoolstudents/olympiads.asp)

RSC Bill Bryson prize – details at www.rsc.org/billbrysonprize.

16. Can the RSC recommend presenters to deliver exciting lectures/demos to students?

The RSC provides a list of willing presenters -

<http://www.rsc.org/Chemsoc/Activities/ChemistryWeek/2007/Contact/OrganisingEvent.asp>

Please note: these are not regulated by the RSC.

17. How do I get Education in Chemistry?

All schools and colleges in the UK are sent a free copy. If you think you do not please email (Eic@rsc.org).

If you are not based in a school, you can subscribe for £216 a year (non-member rate). Details at www.rsc.org/Education/EiC/About/Subscriptions.asp.

18. What do I do if my school hasn't received an RSC resource?

Email (education@rsc.org) so we can investigate.

19. My school is affiliated with the IoB/IoP.

Does the RSC offer a similar affiliation?

No – the RSC supports all schools by sending one free copy of all new resources free of charge but also offers the SCPS (see above).

20. Where can I find RSC educational resources on the web?

**At (www.chemsoc.org/networks/learnnet
(www.chemistryteachers.org) – a fully searchable database
(www.practicalchemistry.org)**

For more information on any of these, please contact education@rsc.org.