



Tips for Science Leaders

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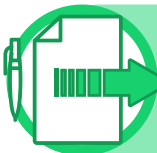
Know what your role should and shouldn't entail. Conversely, ensure other people understand your role too. Be approachable and be seen to be the expert in science. If you don't know something, find out, make it your duty.



Ensure you know the condition of science in your school. Obtain key documentation to support your role: science policy, monitoring reports, observation outcomes, assessment data, curriculum, local authority and national expectations. Use the auditing tool, questionnaires and stakeholder voice tools to help you gain a detailed understanding of the present condition of science in your school.



Understand your school's overall current position and future plans by obtaining copies of the School Evaluation Form and School Improvement Plan.



Generate a science action plan which carefully considers the top priorities for improvement based upon your findings from the auditing undertaken and from whole school document analysis. It's important to think holistically – how does your action plan support the School Improvement Plan. For example, if there is a significant gap in progress for more able girls compared to more able boys, consider how your science plan can support this.



Set up/refine established protocols for planning, delivering and assessing science. Make your expectations reasonable and clear and ensure everyone knows them.



Monitoring schedules should have been identified on your action plan; you may have an additional, more detailed, document for this. Either way, follow your intended monitoring schedule and avoid slippage, particularly in the first term of the academic year. Using a consistent and concise format, feed back your findings in a timely fashion to those that need to know.



Audit yourself as a leader using the self-evaluation tool at least twice a year. It's a great way to measure your own professional development in your science leadership and can form part of your appraisal evidence.



Know what other subject leaders are up to by arranging meetings with local school leaders and join the Purple Mash closed Facebook group for creative ideas and support. We have many experienced teachers working for and with us who can advise on lots of areas of leadership.



Don't try to do everything at once; it will take time to embed new initiatives. Aim to do a few things brilliantly and others of less importance satisfactorily.