

SSERC and Technical

School and college technicians are essential, though often undervalued, members of science and technology teams. The work they do to support teaching is extremely varied and SSERC can offer support at all stages.

Some of the key areas, though by no means all, are:

Storage

While most pieces of equipment need to be kept somewhere secure, the storage of chemicals can be more complicated. In this case it is important to have someone who knows what can be stored where, how, under what conditions and for how long. As well as offering detailed information via our website, SSERC is on hand by phone or email to answer any more specific questions about storage.

Disposal

School and college science and technology departments can produce significant amounts of waste. While much of it, like paper, can be easily disposed of, other materials are more complicated. Electrical items cannot simply be put in the bin, nor can broken glass. Biological materials may need specialised treatment before disposal and chemicals have a range of specific requirements that range from those that can be simply poured down the sink to those that need to be kept for uplift by a licensed contractor.



In all these cases, SSERC is on hand to advise on the safest and least expensive method of disposing of any waste in accordance with regulations. We can also give details of specialist companies who will handle this sort of waste.

Ordering

Getting hold of the equipment or materials needed can be difficult, particularly at an acceptable price. Our years of experience mean that SSERC is usually able to find a suitable supplier or suggest a suitable product. SSERC also has regular contact with various suppliers and so can pass on issues raised with us and offer guidance to them on things that they should seek to stock, particularly in the event of a changing curriculum. Over the years, SSERC has supplied various pieces of equipment to every Local Authority (LA) for use by all educational establishments within that LA. You can find the location and contact information for each piece of equipment on our website. This includes colourimeters, thermal cameras, cloud chambers and more.



Training

Many of the tasks carried out by technicians require a certain degree of training so they can carry them out effectively and safely. While there is nothing suggesting SSERC courses are essential, they are high quality, meet the standards that the relevant regulations require, are mostly SCQF accredited courses and furthermore are available to our members at a much lower price than we charge to non-members.

We can offer training on chemical handling and safety, microbiology, physics including dealing with radioactivity, electrical safety, safe use of workshop machinery and many more.

The Technician Community

As well as the support offered to individual technicians as outlined above, SSERC has seen the importance in working with the wider technician community.

To help with this we have recently started producing 'The School STEM Technician', a publication dedicated to supporting school technicians' professional development and encouraging professional discussion and debate. We welcome input from technicians.

SSERC also runs Techné, a support community for technicians across Scotland, promoting the sharing of knowledge, ideas and skills to benefit all.



SSERC also supports STAC (the Scottish Technicians, Advisory Committee). This is a body that acts as an advocate for school and college technicians and advises on their training and other needs. It invites and encourages a member from each Local Authority to join and meets 4 times a year. <<

Contact us
You can contact us
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