



## Primary Science Safety Audit 2025

Safety is always our priority and is part of safeguarding. The safety audit for science is designed to provide the opportunity to ensure working practices are as effective as possible at reducing risks and ensuring safety of practical working, activities and that of the enhanced curriculum opportunities that exist. **It should be a conversation and must be signed off for return by the headteacher.**

Please download and save the newly published revised guidance for **Safety in Science at Key Stages 1 and 2 fifth edition June 2025**. It is important to review this document at the same time as completing the audit so any key changes you need to make in line with the revised guidance are added to your safety in science action plan for the upcoming year.

Any areas identified as requiring improvement should be added to the action plan section of the form.

Please note that the completion of this form is **compulsory** for **maintained schools**. A small number of randomly selected schools will receive a monitoring visit in the Autumn term and failure to submit could result in a formal Health & Safety monitoring visit. This is not compulsory for non-maintained schools but filling it in and returning will help build a bigger picture of the issues surrounding safe and effective practical work in Science across Hampshire, and we would appreciate your support with this.

A copy of the response to this audit should be kept by the science leader and another copy with the school's Health & Safety Officer. Your response will be sent to you via a flowback in a word document format so you have the opportunity to monitor and record progress towards the actions identified throughout the year.

Any questions please email [emma.cooper3@hants.gov.uk](mailto:emma.cooper3@hants.gov.uk)

**DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION: Monday 14 July 2025**

# Safety Audit Guidance

*The Safety Audit helps us to ensure safety remains priority and risks are minimised in practice by all colleagues. The questions you are required to answer in the audit are listed in this document. Please use this document as prompts to help you to complete the [Primary Science Safety Audit 2025](#) online.*

**School Name:**

**School DfE Number (If you are federated school, please provide all DfE number of all the schools in the federation that this audit is applicable for - separated with a comma):**

**Name of Headteacher:**

**Person(s) involved in completing this form:**

**Role of Person(s) completing this form:**

**Email address?**

## Health and Safety and leadership:

If an answer to any of the following questions is **NO**, these will need to be added to your action plan to ensure effective health and safety practices.

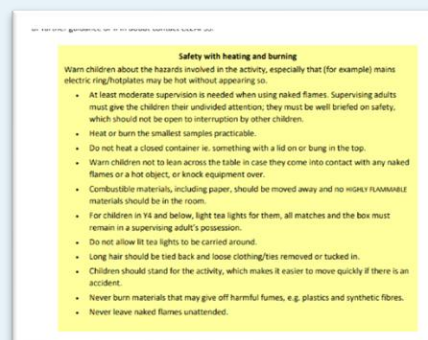
**Q:** Is your school science or health and safety policy in line with HIAS guidance Safety in science at Key Stages 1 and 2 (published in Summer Term 2025, 5th edition)?

**Q:** Before teaching, do teachers complete a risk assessment specific to the children in their group?

**Q:** Are children clear how to keep themselves safe in science and what the risks are of the practical work they are doing (if any)?

**Q:** As part of quality ensuring science provision in your school, is safety an aspect that is evaluated?

**Q:** Before planning and/or starting a unit or work, do teachers review the latest advice on the 'Doing Thing Safely' section of the CLEAPSS website? When searching for an aspect to risk assess, look for the yellow boxed text on the advice and guidance documents <http://primary.cleapss.org.uk>



**Q:** Health and safety practices are in place to keep children safe. In line with all other safety processes you have, is there a clear process for staff to report near misses and accidents?

**Q:** Is there follow up to learn from any incidents that have taken place and/or learning from incidents in other schools to reduce risk of it happening?

**Q:** Has training in the risk assessment process for science included teachers and teaching assistants including staff who arrive during the school year?

**Q:** Are updates to safety advice in science shared with staff?

**Q:** Is CLEAPSS Explore reviewed half termly and are relevant points from this circulated to staff?

## **Hazardous resources:**

Guidance for hazardous resources:

Mercury thermometers should not be in school.

Rechargeable batteries should not be used for circuits.

Iron filings must be in sealed containers when used.

Chemicals for practical science work are age appropriate and must be stored correctly.

Spirit burners, oil lamps, picnic stoves and other bottled gas devices are not recommended.

Please refer to CLEAPSS for further guidance if necessary. If disposal is required, please add this to your action plan.

**Q:** I have read and understood the hazardous resources listed above and noted the guidance for each.

**Q:** Please indicate whether you hold any of the following hazardous resources in school.

- ☐ Mercury thermometers
- ☐ Rechargeable batteries for practical work
- ☐ Loose Iron filings
- ☐ Chemicals for science practicals
- ☐ Spirit burners, oil lamps, picnic stoves and other bottled gas devices

## **Outdoor areas**

**Q:** Has the school carried out a risk assessment for any outdoor area used for science e.g. pond/ wildlife area and are there appropriate control measures in place?

## Action Plan

Following the completion of this audit, please review your actions and plan next steps. A model of what your action plan will look like once completed is shown below. This will be sent to you as part of your safety audit responses with the view that you will monitor and record progress over the year.

### Action plan

#	Action	Person(s) responsible	Deadline for completion	Notes
1	Ensure all colleagues have time to look at units for the upcoming year and discuss safety, risk assessments and know where to look on the Moodle	Science Leader/ headteacher	09/25	
2	Protocol for inexperienced staff to be 'inducted' in this area apart in addition through their new year group team. Speak to HT/SLT about adding H&S training in science to inexperienced staff induction.	Science Leader/ headteacher	09/25	
3	Add to staff meeting agenda at least termly to update staff on relevant guidance.	Science leader/ headteacher	09/25	