Hampshire County Council
Improvement and Advisory Service

Primary Science Safety Audit 2026

Safety is always our priority and forms part of safeguarding. The Primary Science Safety Audit is designed to support schools in ensuring that working practices are as effective as possible in reducing risk and keeping children and staff safe during practical science activities, including enhanced curriculum opportunities. **This audit should be approached as a professional discussion** and must be **signed off by the Headteacher** prior to return.

The audit also forms part of the school's **annual safeguarding and Health & Safety assurance cycle**. Schools should use this process to review the effectiveness of actions identified in the previous year's audit, evaluating impact, confirming which actions have been completed, and identifying any actions that need to be carried forward and addressed further.

Please download and save the newly published revised guidance ***Safety in Science at Key Stages 1 and 2 (Fifth Edition, June 2025)***. This document should be reviewed alongside completion of the audit so that any required changes to practice are identified and incorporated into the science safety action plan for the coming year.

The audit should be completed by the **science leader**, in discussion with the **Headteacher**. Any areas identified as requiring improvement, including actions carried forward from previous audits, must be recorded in the action plan section of the form.

Completion of this audit is **compulsory for Hampshire maintained schools**. A small number of schools will be randomly selected for a monitoring visit in the Autumn term. Failure to submit a completed audit may result in a formal Health and Safety monitoring visit in the following academic year.

This audit is not compulsory for non-maintained schools; however, completed returns support a broader understanding of safe and effective practical science practice across Hampshire, and schools' engagement is encouraged.

Your completed audit will be returned to you via flowback as a Word document. **This should be retained as evidence of safeguarding and Health & Safety practice** and used to monitor progress against identified actions throughout the year. One copy should be kept by the science leader and one by the school's Health & Safety Officer.

Any questions please email emma.cooper3@hants.gov.uk

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION: 22 June 2026

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 2026 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: Have the actions identified in the previous year's Primary Science Safety Audit been reviewed, evaluated for impact, and either signed off as completed or appropriately carried forward into the current action plan?

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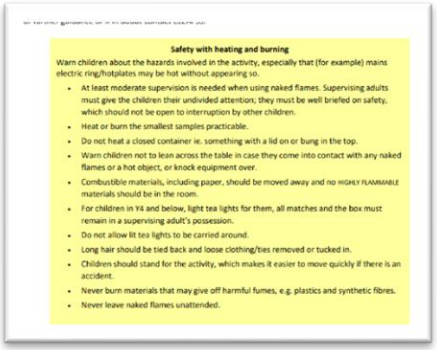
Q: Before planning and/or starting a unit or work, do teachers review the latest advice on the 'Doing Thing Safely' section of the CLEAPSS website? When searching for an aspect to risk assess, look for the yellow boxed text on the advice and guidance documents
http://primary.cleapss.org.uk



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 all teachers including staff who arrive during the school year?

Q: Are new, temporary or non-specialist staff who teach science provided with appropriate support and guidance to ensure safe practice before delivering practical work?

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?

Q: Do all staff who teach science have access to CLEAPSS guidance through individual logins to CLEAPSS Primary?

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?

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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	