

Position Statement

The importance of chemistry education

Last reviewed: November 2017

The Royal Society of Chemistry's work supporting chemistry education takes as a starting point our rationale for the importance of chemistry education.

Chemistry education is important because it provides benefits to both individuals and society. Namely, it:

- provides meaning, as it helps the individual to understand the world around them
- helps the individual to make informed choices relevant to their wellbeing, and develop informed opinions about issues that affect society
- enables individuals to access to a variety of rewarding careers
- provides a continuing supply of people with knowledge and skills that contribute to growth and productivity
- provides people with the knowledge and skills to understand and tackle global challenges facing society.

Recommendations

Given the importance of chemistry education, we recommend that

- chemistry is included as part of the core, compulsory curriculum for **all learners up to the age of 16**, as part of a balanced offering in the sciences alongside biology and physics
- a range of post-compulsory study routes – vocational, technical and academic – are available beyond the age of 16 to equip students with specific knowledge and skills that will enable them to enter career paths in the chemical sciences.

For any queries relating to this position statement, please contact the Education Policy team:
EducationPolicy@rsc.org