

Evidence Based Education

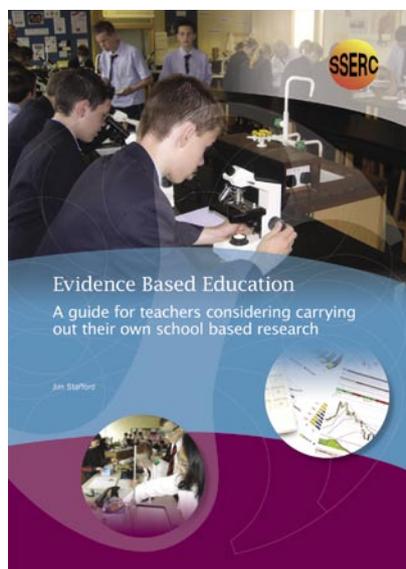
Decision making in education should be based on sound research evidence and should be the concern of every teacher. This new publication written by Jim Stafford describes the main methods for collecting evidence on which to base decisions.

Learning how research works is important so that teachers become research literate enabling them both to carry out their own research into what is effective and to be critical consumers of the research findings of others. Educational initiatives that are not supported by evidence should be challenged and the research that is required to demonstrate their effectiveness should be identified.

This document provides advice on designing your own research and analysing results. The challenges of getting evidence based practice accepted to become part of everyday practice in education are considered.

In his foreword to Evidence Based Education, Ken Muir (Chief Executive of The General Teaching Council for Scotland) makes the following observation:

Evidence Based Education ...reminds us that all education research should have a purpose and provide evidence for teachers taking decisions that will lead to improvement in practice and/or outcomes for learners.



Printed copies of Evidence Based Education will be sent to all secondary schools early in the new school year. In the meantime copies can be downloaded from the SSERC website at http://www.sserc.org.uk/images/Leadership/EBE_1/EBE%20book%20web2.pdf.

Technician survey

In 2005 a national survey (*SEED Project: CPD and Related Activities for Technical Support Staff: National Survey Report 2005*) was carried out to assess the position and the variety of extant support arrangements within Scottish local authorities [1].

The introduction of *Curriculum for Excellence* has seen an increase in the demand for practical work in schools and within SSERC we are planning for a new national survey to gather data on the provision of technical and other support for school science and technology in both primary and secondary schools to determine the current position nationally. A questionnaire will be sent to key personnel in all Local Authorities. In addition, we will be seeking the views of technicians. When the survey is available we will create links on our website – keep an eye on <http://www.sserc.org.uk> or <http://www.sserc.org.uk/index.php/technicians>.

Reference

- [1] Copies of the survey can be downloaded at <http://www.sserc.org.uk/index.php/technicians/national-survey-2005>.