



The Teaching of Science in Primary Schools

Wynne Harlen OBE, Anne Qualter

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The Teaching of Science in Primary Schools provides essential information for all concerned with primary school education about all aspects of teaching science. It pays particular attention to inquiry-based teaching and learning because of the more general educational benefits that follow from using this approach. These benefits are often expressed in terms of developing general scientific literacy and fostering the ability to learn and the motivation to continue learning. This book also aims to help teachers focus on the 'big' or powerful ideas of science rather than teaching a series of unrelated facts. This leads children to an understanding of the nature, and limitations, of scientific activity.

This fully expanded and updated edition explores:

- The compelling reasons for starting science in the primary school.
- Within-school planning in the context of less prescriptive national requirements.
- The value of having in mind the 'big ideas' of science.
- The opportunities for children to learn through greater access to the internet and social networking.
- The expanding sources of materials and guidance now available to teachers on-line.
- Greater attention to school and teacher self-evaluation as a means of improving provision for children's learning.
- The importance for both teachers and learners of reflecting on the process and content of their activities.

Other key aspects of teaching, such as:- questioning, the importance of discussion and dialogue, the formative and summative roles of assessment and strategies for helping children to develop understanding, skills, positive attitudes and enjoyment of science, are preserved. So also is the learner-centred approach with an emphasis on children learning to take some responsibility for their activities. This book is essential reading for all primary school teachers and those on primary education courses.

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