

# Advisory service

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## **SSERC:** beyond **STEM**

While we hope that SSERC is the first name that springs to mind when you want advice regarding Science and Technology, there is much more that we can offer as well, particularly regarding health and safety.

### **Policy frameworks**

It is a legal requirement for every organisation to have a health and safety policy. The vast majority of our members we are sure do have perfectly serviceable ones but if you arrive in a new school or college and either can't find one or it is hopelessly out of date we have a downloadable policy framework to help. You just fill in the blank spaces with the details specific to your workplace and there you have it. We also have frameworks for departmental health & safety policies for Science and for Technology departments and, on request, we can produce similar ones for other departments.

#### Places around the school or college

The bulk of our risk assessments focus on hazards in laboratories and workshops but there are plenty of other places within a school or college that have hazards associated with them. So it is important here too that any

dangers are recognised so that they can be used as safely as possible. These include, stairs and corridors, offices, storage areas, playing fields and many more. We have model risk assessments to cover these.

#### **Trips and travel**

Taking learners on trips outside of school is a popular method of enriching the curriculum but any journey, particularly to unfamiliar places, has its risks. To make this less stressful, SSERC has a selection of model risk assessments for you to customise to enable your travel to be a more straightforward one. We cover everything from walks around your local area through cycling and riding excursions to sea and air travel to further flung destinations.



#### **Sports and games**

Not uncommonly the trips mentioned above are for sporting fixtures. Whether in a competitive setting, for practice or purely for pleasure, most sports have at least a small amount of risk associated with them. For these activities too we have model risk assessments you can customise in order to keep these activities as safe as possible - both on and off the premises: athletics events of all sorts, swimming and diving, raquet sports and more are all covered.

#### Staff, contractors and volunteers

Schools and colleges need far more than teachers and technicians. SSERC has a set of customisable risk assessments to help you, covering caretakers, cleaning, lone working, putting up and taking down displays and many more.

Related to that we have another set of model risk assessments covering a range of other rooms that may be used in schools and colleges: offices and common rooms, kitchens, sports and drama halls, corridors, playgrounds and many more.



#### **Events**

From time to time every school or college has larger events that involve many more people being present. Large numbers of people of a wide range of ages with varying degrees of familiarity with the site pose significant problems of management and organisations. Here too SSERC has a range of model risk assessments to help. Covering things like drama performances, school discos, open days/evenings, fairs and even fireworks displays.

In addition to these risk assessments, we have recently updated guidance documents on Display Screen Equipment, dealing with Waste Electrical Equipment and guidance for New and Expectant mothers. So whoever you are and whatever you are doing in and around your school and college, SSERC can help to keep you and your learners safe.





