

GUIDING THEMES CATEGORIES 2015



Umbrella theme: Inquiry-based learning.

We agreed that the idea of Science on Stage is to promote inquiry-based learning approaches, and so all of the projects should represent this in some way.

1. Science and Our Sustainable World

For projects that use science to explore the issues that affect us all.

Projects in this category would include those looking specifically at environmental and global issues, such as global warming, recycling, food production and access to healthcare.

Notes: This covers the suggestion of Environmental awareness, but broadens the scope to tackle other problems that affect us globally or have a human element to them.

2. Inclusive Science

For projects that have worked to ensure the active participation of students from any background.

Projects in this category would include those working with underrepresented demographics in science, such as girls in physics or black and minority ethnic students in any science, or students with low socioeconomic status.

Notes: this covers the suggestion of Gender and Science, but broadens the scope to include other diversity projects.

3. Innovation in Science Education

For projects that lead the way in using new technologies and techniques in the classroom.

Projects in this category would include use of high-tech equipment or cutting-edge theoretical approaches to teaching science.

Notes: This covers the suggestion High Tech in Science Teaching.

4. Creativity in Science Education

For projects that are creative in their approach to science teaching.

Projects in this category would include the teaching of established concepts in a new way or using everyday materials to explore scientific concepts.

Notes: This was added after the meeting to encompass those projects that we were concerned were left out by the other titles.

5. Science and its Applications

For projects that build strong links to industry and applied science.

Projects in this category would include those done in partnership with an employer of scientists or those that tackle problems from industry.

Notes: this covers the suggestion school-to-work transition. We were concerned that school-to-work transition might limit projects to those done at age 16 and older, or those that only work with students about to enter work directly.

6. Cooperation between Countries

For projects that are developed by a team including representatives of more than one country.

Projects in this category could cover any element of science teaching, but have a strong international collaboration element.

Notes: This is based on the offer from THINKING to sponsor a prize in this area. This might be a prize only, rather than a category, but it could work as both.