

### **Practical Considerations for Teaching Science with an Awareness of Equal Opportunities**

- 1. As a teacher, be aware of the image of science you communicate.**
- 2. Check out your own behaviour. Do you respond differently to the same behaviour from boys and from girls? How do you respond to pupils from ethnic minority groups? Do you have different expectations from the students in your class?**
- 3. Is your language accessible to all the pupils in your group?**
- 4. How many of your lessons are process-led?**
- 5. Choose to illustrate scientific principles using a wide range of cultural contexts.**
- 6. Value and build on children's own experiences.**
- 7. Be prepared to challenge assumptions and ideas**
- 8. Organise practical work in mixed groups if possible.**
- 9. Address questions to specific children by name.**
- 10. Choose students by name to come and help with demonstrations.**
- 11. Deal sensitively with wrong answers and difficulties. It might be an idea to have a specific time for a "clinic".**
- 12. Encourage students to be self-reliant and think things through for themselves.**
- 13. Praise good ideas and neat work from all.**

**Reading List**

1. Kelly, A. (ed.) (1987) *Science For Girls?* OUP, Milton Keynes
2. Gill, D. and Levidow, L. (eds.) (1987) *Anti-Racist Science Teaching* Free Association Books, London
3. Thorp, S. (ed.) (1991) *Race, Equality and Science Teaching* ASE
4. Singh, B. R. (ed.) (1994) *Improving Gender and Ethnic Relations* Cassell Education, London
5. Stinto, J. (ed.) (1979) *Racism and Sexism in Children's Books* Writers & Readers
6. Searle, C. (1979) *The World in a Classroom* Writers & Readers
7. Kelly, A. (ed.) (1981) *The Missing Half: Girls and Science Education* Manchester University Press
8. Laine, C. and Hoyle, P. (1989) *Talking Science* HBJ Schools
9. van Sertima, I. (ed.) (1986) *Blacks in Science - Ancient and Modern* Transaction Books, USA
10. Whitelegg, E., Thomas, J. and Tresman, S. (eds.) (1993) *Challenges and Opportunities for Science Education* OUP
11. Naidoo, B. (1992) *Through Whose Eyes? Exploring Racism: reader, text and context* Trentham Books, Stoke-on-Trent
12. Levinson, R. (ed.) (1994) *Teaching Science* Routledge, London and New York
13. Hughes, G. (1993) *Women and Science and Technology* ASE, Hatfield

This document can be freely copied and amended if used for educational purposes. It must not be used for commercial gain. The author(s) and web source must be acknowledged whether used as it stands or whether adapted in any way.