

Topic 3: Primary and Secondary Education

Science teaching in public schools is essential to train young students to the principles of scientific thinking and experimentation. The aim of good teaching is to attract the interest of students for sciences and to prevent rejection due to contradictory feelings during the first years of education.

SFC is not directly involved at primary education level. However SFC supports several associations which stimulate young students with experimental sciences: how to make tooth paste is sometimes more efficient than a full course... These associations are also providing the staff during specific events like the Science Week ("Fête de la Science") run every year with a large success in more than 100 cities in France. The "Conférence Pasteur" is thinking about special programmes for these younger students.

SFC is much more involved at the secondary education level. Continuing education is proposed at different stages in co-operation with the Union of Teachers in Physics and Chemistry (UDPC). Members of SFC and Clubs of Younger Chemists are participating in series of lectures given to students of the last two years of secondary education. These lectures are generally co-ordinated by the local Universities and the Association "Chemistry and Society" which has the aim to continue the spirit of the International Year of Chemistry (1999). Moreover, SFC is distributing its magazine (*L'Actualité Chimique*) to most of the chemistry teachers of secondary schools in France. Each issue of this magazine contains pedagogical articles dealing with theoretical and experimental aspects of chemistry and related areas and special accounts on the chemistry inside daily products ("how it works").

Finally, SFC is supporting the Chemistry Olympiade at a national and international level. The web page of the French Chemistry Olympiade is administered by SFC.