



Figure 1 The buzz of the Great Science Share 2017 with nearly 1000 pupils at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester

Great
Science
Share
for SCHOOLS

**Shane Nolan,
SEERIH Teacher
Champion and ASE
Primary Committee
member, offers his
experiences of the ASE
Annual Conference
2018 and his
motivation to share
more science**

Will you be part of the Great Science Share for Schools 2018?

Having just returned from the Association for Science Education's 2018 Annual Conference in Liverpool I am inspired to put pen to paper and share some thoughts – both as a new ASE Primary Committee member, a practising science/computing subject leader and teacher at Christ the King RC Primary School in Worsley, nr Manchester, and also as a SEERIH Teacher Champion

(Science and Engineering Education Research and Innovation Hub, University of Manchester). In these different but complementary roles a few things have struck me over the past year:

- The primary science community is alive and kicking and is a force for change when working collaboratively.
- Primary science in schools generally has lower status, lower

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value, seemingly lower everything, but I see on a day-to-day basis the influence and impact it has on children's wellbeing, enjoyment and engagement in school when we fight not to accept these assumptions.

● My efforts to make a difference are worth it! Yes, it takes more time away from other things I could be doing, but professionally I have found a new lease of life, a renewed commitment to teaching and staying in teaching – something that I think all teachers need at this time.

The national ASE Annual Conference offered a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and the scale of it is always impressive. On a smaller scale, however, there are many great things happening locally to inspire and engage. This will be my third year of being involved in SEERIH's children's

conferences, which have developed into the Great Science Share for Schools. This is something I

would encourage all primary teachers to be involved with, to work with me and others to share, share, share – after all, it is a pretty lonely place out there if we don't!

The Great Science Share 2018

The next Great Science Share for Schools, led by SEERIH, will be taking place on 19 June 2018. From a workshop I presented at the ASE 2018 conference with Dr Lynne Bianchi it was evident that the power of this campaign goes well beyond a fun day for children: it is actually a key opportunity for all of us to work together to raise the profile and status of primary science across the UK. By sharing what we are doing, how we are doing and linking in with the #GreatSciShare social media activity on Twitter we can get a real sense of the range of scientific investigations that children right across the country are carrying out.

I will be taking the lead in supporting new schools to get involved and the message is simple:

● Celebrate and encourage child-led investigations. Put the children in the driving seat: their questions, their methods to investigate and their ideas of how to share their learning with new audiences.

● Every child and every teacher can be involved. It is a learning curve for us all. The point is to get involved, whether you have half an hour, half a day or half a term, just your class, just your key stage, or half your local authority schools!

● This is an opportunity to cross boundaries. You and the children can work with people or children you have not worked with much before. This will be my biggest challenge this year: how can I involve families and the local community more?

There are many levels of involvement and simply doing something is better than doing nothing. The question is, what will you do?



Figure 3 Next stop, the ASE conference?

For information on how to become involved with the Great Science Share for Schools 2018 visit the SEERIH Fascinate website: www.fascinate.manchester.ac.uk

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Figure 2 Children dancing to the Great Science Groove