

West Lothian PSDO achieves chartered status

Nicola Connor, the Raising Aspirations in Science Education (RAiSE) Primary Science Development Officer (PSDO) in West Lothian has been accredited as a Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach).

Nicola has been in post since August 2020 and was previously a primary school teacher for seven years.

CSciTeach is a chartered mark recognising excellence in science teaching and learning from the Association for Science Education (ASE), as a licensed body of the Science Council.

Nicola said:

“I applied for the award after a lengthy discussion with colleagues, one of whom is accredited as well, as it shows my commitment to my practice in science learning and teaching. It also demonstrates my commitment to keeping my own practice up to date and relevant. There is always something to learn more about.”

Being part of the ASE allows for professional dialogue and collaboration with other members and professional learning opportunities. Nicola added:

“I consider myself very lucky to be part of the ASE CSciTeach and Primary Science Teaching Trust fellows in terms of being able to learn from others, collaborate with other teachers, and share practice in West Lothian. I also feel lucky to be part of the incredible RAiSE network.”

Laura McCafferty, National Education Officer for RAiSE, said:

“This is well-deserved recognition for Nicola’s commitment to STEM teaching. We are proud of this achievement and look forward to her continuing to develop her skills to, ultimately, benefit young people’s STEM learning experiences in West Lothian and supporting our wider network.”

Catriona Macrae, Education Officer (Seconded) at West Lothian Council added:

This is a great achievement which recognises Nicola's continued professional commitment and passion for promoting and developing Science and STEM across West Lothian.”

Nicola received the following feedback on her application:

“The application shows a journey from developing her own science practice to providing CLPL for others in her current role, backed by school (PSQM) and personal (PSTT and STEM) achievements along the way. Nicola has demonstrated that she is an effective practitioner having good impact initially within her own schools and, in her current role, in schools across West Lothian and sometimes further afield. Nicola is a recent ASE member and I hope that in future she will use the networks and opportunities provided by ASE to collaborate, further develop her practice and share her ideas within our community. I am happy to recommend her for the award of CSciTeach.”

RAiSE is a programme of The Wood Foundation, Scottish Government, Education Scotland, and participating local authorities to increase the confidence, skills, and networks of primary practitioners to deliver motivating and engaging STEM learning experiences.

For more information on the RAiSE opportunities in West Lothian, follow [@WL STEM](#) on twitter.