Science Policy

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Reviewed every three years

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Aims & Objectives

Our Science Policy follows The National Curriculum 2014 Science Guidelines and aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics;
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of Science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them;
- are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of Science, today and in the future.

Purpose of Study

A high-quality Science education provides foundations for understanding the world. Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. Through building key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils should be encouraged to recognise the power of rational explanation and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. They should be encouraged to understand how key knowledge and concepts can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes. This understanding should be consolidated through their appreciation of applications of Science in society and the economy.

In teaching Science, we are developing in our children:

- a positive attitude towards Science and a sense of wonder & fascination that builds on children's curiosity of the natural world;
- an understanding of Science through a process of enquiry and investigation;
- confidence and competence in scientific knowledge, concepts and skills;
- an ability to reason, predict, think logically and to work systematically and accurately;
- an ability to communicate scientifically;
- the initiative to work both independently and in co-operation with others;
- the ability and understanding to use and apply science across the curriculum and real life.

Teaching and learning style

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in science lessons. Our principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills, vocabulary and understanding. Science teaching involves a careful blend of practical activities, individual work, group and whole class teaching. We encourage the children to ask, as well as answer, scientific questions. They have the opportunity to use a variety of data, such as statistics, graphs, pictures, and photographs. They use ICT in science lessons where it enhances their learning. They take part in discussions and engage in a wide variety of problem-solving activities.

Planning the School Curriculum

The programmes of study for Science are set out year-by-year for Key Stages 1 and 2. We are however, only required to teach the relevant programme of study by the end of the key stage.

Attainment Targets

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Foundation Stage deliver science content through the 'Understanding of the World' strand of the EYFS curriculum. This involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. They are assessed according to the Development Matters attainment targets.

Teaching Science to children with SEN

At our school we teach science to all children, whatever their ability. Science forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning about science.

Assessment

Teachers will assess children's Science work in a variety of ways to ensure they gain a full understanding of what each child has learnt, and what is needed to progress their understanding. In Science this includes:-

- Termly electronic assessment against National Curriculum objectives for Science on Pupil Asset
- Teacher observations
- End of unit/topic assessments with results recorded electronically.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The Science Subject Leader will monitor and evaluate the teaching and learning of Science through monitoring and evaluation of pupils' work, learning walks and curriculum coverage. SLT will monitor data via Pupil Asset and Google Docs.

Health & Safety

Pupils will be taught to use scientific equipment safely when using it during practical activities. Class Teachers, Teaching Assistants and the Subject Leader will check equipment regularly and report any damage, taking defective equipment out of action. Teachers will ensure the School Policy for Health and Safety is integrated into Science teaching.

Reporting to Parents

Pupils' progress will be reported to parents through parent consultations.