

St Laurence Church Infant School

Science Policy



Approved by: Curriculum, Safeguarding and
Pupil Welfare Committee

Last revised on: May 2020

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Science Policy

At St Laurence Church Infant School we value Science because it makes an increasing contribution to all aspects of life. Children are naturally fascinated by everything in the world around them and Science makes a valuable contribution to their understanding.

Intent

Why we teach Science

Through the framework of the National Curriculum 2014 and the Early Learning Goals for Knowledge and Understanding of the World, our intent is to distil a lifelong passion of science within our pupils. We want them to develop a curiosity and interest in the world around them, that as a faith school we believe is a gift from God. Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. Because of this we aim to provide opportunities for children to acquire the specific skills and knowledge to help them think scientifically. Scientific enquiry skills are embedded in each topic the children study and these topics are revisited and developed throughout their time at school. We want to increase their enthusiasm and allow them to create links between science and other school subjects, as well as their lives more generally.

Implementation

How we teach Science

We teach Science through half termly or termly learning units, through a practical 'hands on' learning approach. We provide environments in which children can explore, enjoy and develop their natural curiosity. Children are encouraged to devise and carry out investigations and are given the opportunity to explore the natural and physical environment, in order to develop their sense of wonder at God's beautiful world. They may work individually, in mixed ability groups, whole class groups or with ability partners to complete scientific tasks and activities. This allows for flexibility, exploration and discussion. Children are taught to understand and use scientific vocabulary for each unit being taught, and their skills of questioning, observing, predicting, gathering and recording data, and interpreting findings to draw conclusions, are developed. A Science and Technology week is held every year in March.

How we plan Science

Planning for Science is a process in which all teachers are involved, to ensure that the school gives full coverage to the National Curriculum Programmes of Study in KS1 and the Knowledge and Understanding of the World strands in the Foundation Stage. Long term planning identifies the units being taught each term, and medium term planning highlights the specific knowledge and concepts to be taught for those units. Weekly planning outlines the delivery of individual lessons, which are planned to meet the needs of the children within the classroom.

In Reception, Science is planned and taught as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As part of the Foundation Stage, we relate the scientific aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals. Developing a greater knowledge and understanding of the world around them feeds into the science curriculum at this early age.

In KS1, Science is planned and taught as a discreet lesson every week and as part of cross-curricular themes where appropriate. This provides opportunities for children to deepen their learning and transfer skills within a range of contexts. Fundamental links are made throughout the curriculum, the most obvious points being identified as:

English/Literacy: Reading and writing skills as well as exploration of new vocabulary.

Mathematics: Data collection or timings during an investigation.

Computing: ICT as a valuable resource to support the teaching and reinforcing of scientific skills. The appropriate and supervised use of the internet will provide a vast support system for learning more about the world and supporting children's questions and ideas. Websites or video links are checked to ensure that they are appropriate to share with children.

How we ensure all children access the Science Curriculum

At St Laurence we will ensure that all our children have the opportunity to gain science knowledge and understanding and achieve their full potential, regardless of gender, race, cultural background, class or physical and intellectual ability. During both the planning and teaching stages, differentiation through a variety of methods will be considered to ensure that there is no underachievement present by any group. Science work will reflect our multicultural society wherever possible.

How we assess Science

Assessment is ongoing to inform teachers with their planning, lesson activities and differentiation. Each scientific unit is assessed as it is taught, and judgments are based upon our observations, questioning, discussion and reviewing of written work. Children are given immediate feedback during lessons, including steps to move their learning forward. Evidence for the assessment of Science can be in the form of written work, post-it notes, drawings, photographic evidence and observations. Summative assessment is completed at the end of

Everyone to learn and grow with God

each unit to inform staff of the improvements or skills that still need to be embedded. At the end of each year teachers make a formal comment on a child's progress in Science on their end of year report.

How is the teaching and learning of Science monitored

The Science Lead, together with the Headteacher, will have an overview of the teaching of Science so that effective implementation of the curriculum is ensured. Regular discussions are held with staff to provide advice and support with subject knowledge, lesson planning and on the effective use of resources. Learning walks, discussions with children and monitoring of books will enable the Science Lead to monitor the standards of teaching and learning. The Science Lead will endeavour to stay abreast of any new developments in the delivery of the Science curriculum, so that staff, senior leaders and governors are kept up to date.

Impact

Children at St Laurence Church Infant School will make expected or better progress in their Science Programmes of Study, and overall standards at the end of the key stage will be in line or better than national averages. More importantly, children will have developed their interest and curiosity in the subject and will have fostered a love for the world in which we live.

Review

This Science policy will be reviewed by the Science curriculum lead within the next three years, or before if there are changes to the Science curriculum.

Date of policy May 2020

Date for next review of this document May 2023

Science Co Ordinator.... Frances Goodwin