



Science Policy

Our rationale for teaching science

Science is a body of knowledge built up through experimental testing of ideas. Science is also methodology, a practical way of finding reliable answers to questions we may ask about the world around us. Science in our school is about developing children's ideas and ways of working that enable them to make sense of the world in which they live through investigation as well as using and applying process skills.

We believe that a broad and balanced science education is the entitlement of all children regardless of ethnic origin, gender, class aptitude or disability. Our aims in teaching science include the following;

1. Preparing our children for life in an increasingly scientific and technological world
2. Fostering concern about and active care for our environment
3. Helping our children acquire a growing understanding of scientific ideas
4. Helping develop and extend our children's scientific concept of their world
5. Developing our children's understanding of the international and collaborative nature of science

Attitudes

1. encouraging the development of positive attitudes to science
2. building on our children's natural curiosity and developing a scientific approach to problems
3. encouraging open-mindedness, self-assessment, perseverance and responsibility
4. building our children's self-confidence to enable them to work independently
5. developing our children's social skills to work cooperatively with others
6. providing our children with an enjoyable experience of science so that they will develop a deep and lasting interest and may be motivated to study science further

Skills

1. giving our children an understanding of scientific processes
2. helping our children to acquire practical scientific skills
3. developing the skills of investigation- including observing, measuring, predicting, hypothesising, experimenting, communicating interpreting explaining and evaluating
4. developing the use of scientific language, recording and techniques

5. developing the use of ICT in investigating and recording
6. enabling our children to become effective communicators of scientific ideas facts and data

Our teaching aims

1. teaching science (following the national curriculum 2014) in ways that are imaginative, purposeful, well managed and enjoyable
2. giving clear and accurate teacher explanations and offering skilful questioning
3. making links between science and other subjects

How science is structured through the school

Planning for science is a process in which all teachers are involved to ensure that the school gives full coverage of the curriculum. Science teaching in the school is about excellence and enjoyment. We adapt and extend the curriculum to match the unique circumstances of our school and weave it into our whole school topics.

Equal opportunities

Science is taught within the guidelines of the schools equal opportunities policy.

1. We ensure that all our children have the opportunity to gain science knowledge and understanding regardless of gender, race, class, physical or intellectual ability
2. Our expectations do not limit pupil achievement and assessment does not involve cultural, social, linguistic or gender bias
3. We aim to teach science in a broad, global and historical context using the widest possible perspective and including the contributions of many different backgrounds
4. We draw examples from other cultures recognising that simple technology may be superior to complex solutions
5. We value science as a vehicle for the development of language skills and we encourage our children to talk constructively about their science experiences
6. In our teaching in science is linked to literacy and mathematics
7. We recognise the particular importance of first-hand experience for motivating children with learning difficulties
8. We recognise that science may strongly engage our able, gifted and talented children and we aim to challenge and extend them
9. We exploit science's special contribution to children's developing creativity. We develop this by asking and encouraging challenging questions and encouraging original thinking

Assessments

We use formative assessment to inform and develop our teaching. Reports to parents are made annually describing each child's attitude to science, their progress in and understanding of the subject.

Monitoring

The subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standard of the children's work and the quality of teaching in Science.

This policy was reviewed in November 2022

Date of next review: Autumn 2025