

SCIENCE POLICY



ST MARY'S LEWISHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUR VISION

To be a learning community that promotes the unique gifts, wellbeing and potential of every person. Our work is founded on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, building on His message of equality, peace and justice, guided by His words 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34).

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Science at St Mary's aims to teach our children the skills, knowledge and understanding they need in order to question and understand concepts and phenomena that occur in the world around them. It also equips them with the motivation to seek further explanation for these. Children learn the skills required for specific enquiry and they will begin to appreciate the way science will affect their future on a personal, national and global level.

The aims of science are to enable children to:

- Ask and answer scientific questions
- Plan and carry out fair scientific investigations, using a range of equipment including ICT
- Know and understand the life processes of living things
- Know and understand the physical processes of materials, electricity, light, sound and natural forces
- Know about materials and their properties
- Evaluate evidence and present their conclusions clearly and accurately

TEACHING AND LEARNING

At St. Mary's, teachers consider a variety of teaching and learning styles when delivering the science curriculum. Our principal aim is to ensure we develop the knowledge, skills and understanding of all learners. We do this in a variety of ways, including through carefully planned lessons that take into account all abilities and using additional adults to support the work of small groups or individuals.

To provide adequate time for developing scientific knowledge, skills and understanding, each teacher will provide regularly taught science lessons each half term. These may vary in length but will usually last for about one and a half hours in Key Stage 1, and up to two hours in Key Stage 2. At Foundation level, Science is an integral part of topic learning and should be embedded throughout activities. At this stage, the 'understanding the world' area of learning commands at least one hour of structured time per week and is evident throughout other learning tasks. Cross-curricular links will also be made to other subjects so that pupils can develop and apply their scientific skills.

PLANNING

At St. Mary's, we have a carefully designed thematic curriculum to ensure there is appropriate coverage of the National curriculum subjects, in a way that reflects our school community and supports our values and ethos as well as covering the programs of study in the National Curriculum. We have chosen a 2 year curriculum as it allows teachers to plan together in phases, building links between classes and reducing workload.

The Thematic Curriculum topics include the National Curriculum programs of study for science, as well as other subject areas. Progression of skills and knowledge documents for science are shared with teaching staff to ensure that planning is progressive from one year to the next.

Detailed unit plans can be supported by Switched on Science or Hamilton Trust where necessary. There is an expectation for teachers to consider key questions and vocabulary for each science unit, to be included on pupils

half termly topic maps. Topics maps are regularly reviewed and can be used by teachers as a form of formative assessment.

More details on the structure of planning for the thematic curriculum can be found in the thematic curriculum policy.

MANAGEMENT, CPD AND MONITORING

The Subject Leader will organise science day each year, in order to raise the profile of science, including a whole school worship, engaging workshops prepared for every year group to promote enthusiasm for the subject and inviting inspiring scientists to lead workshops. The Subject Leader leads or arranges staff meetings to aid the skills and confidence of the teachers in delivering the curriculum. Science is recorded in topic books and is monitored by ELT every term.

FEEDBACK AND ASSESSMENT

Teachers are expected to make a judgment on whether a child is working towards, at or working at greater depth in science, and enter this on Scholarpack at the end of every term. They will take into account the knowledge and skills that each child has acquired in the 2 topics covered for the term. Teachers are provided with the most recent guidelines in assessing science provided by the standards and testing agency to support their judgements.

Children will be provided with feedback either verbally or through written marking. Teachers should adhere to the school's Feedback and Assessment Policy.

INCLUSION

In line with the School's Inclusion Policy each child will have an equal entitlement to all aspects of the science curriculum and to experience the full range of science activities. Lessons involving lots of visual, aural and kinesthetic elements will benefit all children including those for whom English is an additional language (EAL). Challenge for Higher Attaining pupils will be built into lessons and monitored.

St Mary's CoE Primary School, Lewisham – Science policy written by Nadia Ahmed 11/12/19