

Science Subject Policy

St. Francis' Catholic Primary School



Approved by FGB on: N/A

Committee Responsible: Learning

Next review due by: November 2023

Science

Intent

At St. Francis' school, science means exploring, discovering and investigating the world around them, as well as using and applying process skills. Science in our school is about developing children's ideas and ways of working that enable them to make sense of and understand the world in which we live, and also help them make decisions in the future about issues concerning themselves and the environment. Through the teaching of science, we encourage children to become caring people who develop respect for living things and the non-living environment in order to genuinely care for and sustain the world that God bequeathed them.

Aims

- build a body of scientific knowledge that will help make sense of the world and prepare for a life in an increasingly scientific and technological world
- understand the way things work and recognise how scientific discoveries and ideas have affected the way people think, feel, create, behave and live
- build on children's natural curiosity and develop a scientific approach to problems
- develop skills of enquiry, investigation, planning, reviewing, interpreting and evaluating work alongside other key skills such as application of data handling and number, ICT and problem solving
- work both individually and together in groups, to communicate and help each other, to develop positive attitudes towards learning and to become motivated to find out more.

Implementation

- the planning and teaching of Science will follow the National Curriculum Programmes of Study
- schemes such as the Hamilton Trust and 100 Science lessons will be used to support the planning and teaching of Science
- coverage of Science will take place through topic work and discrete lessons in order to ensure comprehensive coverage
- skills of working scientifically will be an integral part of science teaching time. Skills ladders will be followed and taught across all year groups
- formative assessment to improve children's learning and summative assessment to monitor progression will take place. Assessment at the end of each Programme of Study will record whether the expected standard has been met or not
- children learn best through gaining a 'hands-on', problem-solving approach to science. Their knowledge should be gained through handling practical equipment such as models, magnets, electrical circuits etc. These are supplemented with a range of resources for measuring/recording. All resources can be found in the Science cupboard opposite the Year 2 classroom
- children will be shown how to use equipment safely and to assess risks, taking action to reduce risks to themselves and others
- children will be encouraged to participate in assessment of their own work and that of their peers
- children will be encouraged to work independently or part of a group of scientists as they investigate and work scientifically. They will be prompted to ask questions and to investigate towards an answer for these problems. For example, 'Do magnets always attract each other? How do you know?'
- class-based learning will be supplemented by visitors with particular expertise, visits to other places and use of the school grounds

- Monitoring teaching and learning, and collating teacher assessments will take place by the Science Coordinator

Impact

The science coordinator, reporting to the Head Teacher, is responsible for monitoring teaching practice to ensure that the school science policy is being implemented. This includes overseeing the development and review of schemes and resources for learning in Science, mapping out and monitoring the curriculum planning, lesson observations, oversight of assessment materials/procedures, and moderation of work and teacher feedback. Teachers are expected to carry out three formal assessments across the year to be collated by the science coordinator.

Conclusion

The teaching of Science at St Francis encourages children to be curious, inquisitive, explore their sense of awe and wonder, and to ask questions about the world around them. Through their developing investigative skills, children will begin to make links understanding why things happen and how things work.