

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Worcester

'Following Jesus in all we do'

Science Policy

Contact Details

Science Coordinator

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Science Policy

AIMS

At St Joseph's we provide a safe and healthy environment, in which children are encouraged to develop their interest and curiosity about the world around them. Through schemes such as Forest School and the use of our Marian Garden we also inspire our children to respect the environment.

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

- ✓ Are equipped to use themselves as starting points for learning about science, and build on their enthusiasm and natural sense of wonder about the world.
- ✓ Develop through practical work the skills of observation, prediction, investigation, interpretation, communication, questioning and hypothesizing, and are able to use precise measurement skills and ICT.
- ✓ Are encouraged to offer their own suggestions, and to be creative in their approach to science, and gain enjoyment from their scientific work.
- ✓ Are able to develop their skills of co-operation through working with others (drawing on the Building Learning Power Characters: Team Ant), and are encouraged to explore science in forms which are relevant and meaningful to them.
- ✓ Develop an understanding of how to treat the living and non-living environment with respect and sensitivity.
- ✓ Have an understanding of personal and group safety by using resources correctly.
- ✓ Effectively communicate scientific ideas by using scientific vocabulary confidently.
- ✓ Appreciate that we do not always know the answer and results when carrying out scientific enquiry and are excited by the unknown!

EXPECTATIONS

By the end of Reception all children will meet their Early Learning Goals in 'The World' and 'Health and Self-Care'. By the end of Key Stage 1 the majority of pupils should be Year 2 expected, with some being Year 2 exceeding for science. By the end of Key Stage 2 the majority of children should be Year 6 expected, with some being Year 6 exceeding for science.

THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Early Years

Science should be taught in the reception class according to the Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage. It is incorporated in the Early Learning Goals of 'Knowledge and Understanding of the World' and 'Health and Self-Care'. Through these goals pupils develop the crucial knowledge; skills and understanding that helps them make sense of their world. Specific themes and topics are used to enhance science learning in the EYFS.

Key Stages 1 & 2

The knowledge and skills within The National Curriculum Programme of Study are met using a variety of learning planning units, including the Developing Experts Scheme of Work and appropriate cross curricular opportunities. Before every science focused topic the class teacher will lead a 'pre-topic discussion' to identify the pupil's prior knowledge and learning, to individualise the objectives and learning skills to the pupils' needs.

There will be a whole school Focus in Science for British Science Week. Throughout the year, Science should be taught on a weekly basis and where possible lessons should contain some element of working scientifically.

In KS2 we will ensure children are meeting the National Curriculum requirements of being able to 'explain the process of human reproduction' through the Love and Relationships program. This will be evidenced in the back of the science books.

THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT & APPROACHES TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

Classrooms will have Science display which will feature the children's prior knowledge, relevant scientific vocabulary and ideas relating to the units of work. Science based resources are available in the Science room and need to be signed in and out. Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils will have access to a range of ICT equipment to enhance and support their scientific enquiry and recording e.g. Digi Blue cameras, Excel and Clicker.

MARKING & ASSESSMENT

Science work will be marked in accordance with the marking policy for the specific year group. Assessment for learning is continuous throughout the planning, teaching and learning process. Children are continuously assessed using:

- Observing children at work, individually, in pairs and in groups
- Questioning, talking and listening to pupils
- Work, recordings and investigations produced by pupils and discussed with a teacher

Summative assessment will be carried out at the end of a science unit using the new unit overviews which can be found in staff share under science. All assessment will be collated and recorded using the online Pupil Tracker.

In Reception assessments will be made on child initiated play/activities and will be recorded using photographic evidence on Tapestry.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

There are opportunities for children to visit places of scientific interest during school trips e.g. the Bishops Wood Centre, local farms and the Birmingham Thinktank. When relevant, visitors will be invited into our school in order to support the learning objectives for specific units of science. Both Key Stage 1 & 2 have active Eco-councils who meet half termly.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

As a school we follow the Health and safety guidance of CLEAPSS Health and Safety in Primary Science and Technology Policy. A copy of this policy is in every classroom. Additional specific units are allocated to each classroom in accordance the curriculum coverage for each year group.

The safe use of science equipment and materials is promoted at all times. Teacher must also take into account the school's Health and Safety policy. Safety issues must be identified in both medium and short term planning and risk assessments for science investigations and experiments. Teachers must also be aware of allergies of individual pupils when planning a science investigation or experiment.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & INCLUSION

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School we are committed to providing all children with an equal entitlement to scientific activities and opportunities regardless of race, gender, culture or class. In school we aim to meet the needs of all our children by differentiation in our science planning and in providing a variety of approaches and tasks appropriate to ability levels. This will enable children with learning and/or physical difficulties to take an active part in scientific learning and practical activities/ investigations, by achieving the goals they have been set.

ROLE OF THE SUBJECT LEADER

- To undertake the monitoring of standards in science and use this to inform the yearly science action plan.
- Provide leadership and management of their subject to ensure high quality teaching and learning throughout the school.
- Develop and review the science policy.
- To liaise with outside agencies and attend subject specific courses.
- To report to the Head Teacher and Governing Body on science related issues.
- To audit, organise purchase science resources in accordance with the available budget.



*Archiepiscopo
of
Birmingham*

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- To provide CPD when necessary.