



## St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

### Science Policy

#### Rationale

Science is a body of knowledge and understanding built up through experimental testing of ideas. Science is also a methodology; a practical way of finding reliable answers to questions we may ask about the world around us.

Science at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is about developing children's ideas and ways of working that enable them to:

- Think critically and communicate their understanding;
- Have opportunities to apply their scientific skills in different contexts across the curriculum;
- Develop enquiry skills useful for science and across the curriculum.

#### Aims

- Preparing children for life in an increasingly scientific and technological world
- Fostering concern about, and active care for, our local and global environment.
- Helping children develop a scientific concept of their world.
- **Developing children's understanding of the international and collaborative nature of science.**
- Enabling children to appreciate every-day and technological applications of science, both positive and negative.

#### Attitudes

- Encouraging the development of positive attitudes to science for both girls and boys.
- **Building on children's natural curiosity and developing a scientific approach to problems.**
- Encouraging open-mindedness, self-assessment, perseverance and responsibility.
- Encouraging children to engage in scientific enquiry; posing questions and investigating.
- **Developing children's social skills to work co-operatively with others.**
- Providing children with an enjoyable experience of science, so that they will develop a deep and lasting interest

## Skills

- Giving children an understanding of scientific processes.
- Helping children to acquire practical scientific skills.
- Developing the skills of investigation - including observing, questioning, measuring, predicting, hypothesising, experimenting, communicating, interpreting, pattern spotting, explaining and evaluating.
- Developing the use of scientific language, recording and techniques.
- Enabling our children to become effective communicators of scientific ideas, facts and data.

## Teaching and Learning

### Planning

- **Planning begins from a thorough understanding of children's needs gleaned through effective and rigorous assessment and tracking, combined with high expectations and ambition for all children to achieve.**
- Medium term planning will outline the areas of science that will be taught during the term to ensure coverage of the National Curriculum.
- Within short term planning, clear success criteria for each learning objective taught should be created – demonstrating the progression needed to reach and exceed the objective. This will enable the class teacher to follow a clear and systematic teaching sequence.
- Where children are working significantly above or below the objective the majority of the class need to work towards, and where extending this by expanding the success criteria seems **inappropriate, objectives should be adapted in order to meet the individual's needs**, including providing scaffolding to allow children to achieve objectives or by allowing children to research challenging key questions or enquiries independently to allow them to develop mastery of the objective.
- Planning should involve real life contexts for science, where children are investigating scientific question with a real purpose in mind, appropriately linked to the creative curriculum topic.
- Enquiry-based learning should be the driving force of scientific learning, teaching and assessment, enabling children to be far more independent and scientific in their thinking and approach to science and ultimately leading to the development of in-depth scientific understanding in all areas of the subject.
- Class teachers should regularly plan for opportunities for children to apply their scientific skills to different areas within science lessons and across the curriculum. This will also allow children to revisit, practice and consolidate different areas of science and apply them within different contexts.

## Teaching

- In the Foundation Stage, children are given the opportunity to learn about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things; to talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one to another; make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes
- Though the nature of lessons will be very different depending on the needs of the class, children should **be: active; practicing skills they haven't yet mastered**; learning something new or learning to apply their knowledge to different contexts. They should be working at a good pace, being productive and sharing their thoughts and methods.

## Assessment

- Assessment for learning should occur throughout the entire science lesson, enabling **teachers/teaching assistants to adapt their teaching/input to meet the children's needs**. This feedback should be incisive and regular.
- Children should self-assess against the learning objective and success criteria, giving them a sense of success.
- **Pupil's work should be marked in line with the Marking Policy and should model how corrections** should be made, giving children a chance to learn from their misconceptions or incorrect methods. At the beginning of each lesson, time should be given for pupils to reflect on marking and comments on the previous work.
- Future lesson design should depend on class success evaluated through marking and observations made during the lesson.
- Assessment of pupil work and progress is on-going by the class teacher and informs future planning.
- Teachers mark work in science in line with the school marking policy. Teachers use formative and summative assessment against the KS1, LKS2 or UKS2 descriptors which allows teachers **to assess children's progress in science, gathering evidence over the course of the year**. Teachers use this information to inform planning for groups and individual pupils.

## Resources

Staff have easy access to a wide range of resources and most are stored in the science cupboard. Additional resources can be purchased on request.

We promote science through links with local industries, educational visits and exhibitions, competitions and events whenever possible.

## Responsibilities of the Subject Leader

- Monitor the effectiveness of Science teaching and learning by means of lesson observation, **pupil interviews, learning walks, sampling children's work and overseeing assessment**.
- Provide feedback to teaching staff and the headteacher
- Periodically update the whole school planning overview to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate.
- Attend subject leader network meetings and disseminate new information.
- Support teachers in planning and delivering the curriculum.
- Manage the resources for teaching Science.
- Report to the Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body as requested.

## Health and Safety

All children are made aware of the importance and relevance of health and safety when undertaking work in science. In planning, the class teacher is expected to assess the risks and adjust their lessons accordingly to ensure safe practice and appropriate levels of supervision.

