

St Mary and St Benedict Catholic Primary School



SCIENCE POLICY

Policy Details	
Policy last updated by	John Noonan
Last review date	17.4.26
Date approved by Senior Management Team	
Date Ratified by Governing Body	
Next review date	

Introduction

This policy intends to establish the aims and strategies for the successful delivery of Science at St Mary and St Benedict Catholic Primary School, in conjunction with the Assessment and Marking Policy, the Teaching and Learning Policy and the SEND Policy.

Rationale

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 at St Mary and St Benedict Catholic Primary School provides opportunities for children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live both through practical experience and from other sources of information. We believe that a broad and balanced science education is the entitlement of all children, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, class, aptitude or disability.

Aims:

For the teaching of Science at St Mary and St Benedict to:

- Prepare our children for life in an increasingly scientific and technological world.
- Foster concern about, and actively care for, our environment.
- Help develop and extend our children's scientific concept of their world and foster a thirst for learning about new concepts and phenomena.
- Develop our children's understanding of the international and collaborative nature of science.
- Develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.
- Develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of scientific enquiries that help our children answer scientific questions about the world around them.
- Equip children with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.
- Build on our children's natural curiosity and help them to develop a scientific approach to problems.

Skills

- Give our children an understanding of scientific processes.
- Help our children to acquire practical scientific skills
- Develop the skills of investigation - including observing, measuring, predicting, hypothesising, experimenting, communicating, interpreting, explaining and evaluating.
- Develop the use of scientific language, recording and techniques.
- Enable our children to become effective communicators of scientific ideas, facts and data.

- Scientific Knowledge, Conceptual understanding and Scientific Enquiry are incorporated within each unit of work. Children will develop their range of scientific vocabulary.

Planning

The 2014 National Curriculum is delivered through:

- The thematic curriculum map shows the units covered during each term within each phase over a two year rolling cycle, and provide fun and engaging lessons which support pupils in achieving their full potential.
- Weekly lesson plans provide more detail about the lesson and the resources that are to be used.
- These are produced by the class teacher and are kept in each teacher's planning and progress file within their classroom.
- The curriculum is designed to allow flexibility, with contextualized and cross curricular learning opportunities.

Inclusion

At St Mary & St Benedict Catholic Primary School we aim to enable all children to achieve their full potential. This includes children of all abilities, social and cultural backgrounds, those with disabilities, EAL speakers and SEN statemented and non-statemented. We place particular emphasis on the flexibility technology brings to allowing pupils to access learning opportunities, particularly pupils with SEN and disabilities.

Assessment and recording

Throughout each topic, teachers will monitor pupils' progress in scientific knowledge, understanding and skills through:

- Observation during lessons
- Marking written work
- Discussion with pupils and opportunities for peer feedback
- Informal Spot Checks throughout units of learning
- Formal written assessments (where necessary)

Learning objectives are identified and activities planned in each scheme of work which provide opportunities for teacher assessment. Teachers assess the children's work throughout the year. The results are reported to parents on an annual basis.

Health and Safety

The school has adopted the ASE "Be Safe" publication as in the detailed guidance for all staff. The termly CLEAPSS newsletter "Primary Science and Technology" is included within the curriculum folder for reference. In addition teachers have access to the CLEAPSS help-line if required. The "Be Safe" booklet which is kept in the centralised resource area should be consulted by teachers before engaging on any scientific activity that could be hazardous such as:

- Use of chemicals
- Heating and Burning
- Electricity
- Care and maintenance of animals

- Pond dipping
- Growing microorganisms
- Good cable management/ housekeeping maintained
- Gangways kept clear of obstructions
- Spills/waste materials cleaned up in a timely manner
- Appropriate footwear to be worn

Monitoring and review

Head Teacher

Monitoring the implementation of the Science Policy and its associated policies such as Assessment and Inclusion Policies.

Teaching Staff

- Maintain science content on the school website
- Posting appropriate, relevant content to the school's Twitter account

Science Subject leader

- Monitor the standards of the children's work and the quality of teaching in science.
- Analyse data to consider trends or issues such as patterns of attainment by boys and girls.
- Be responsible for the support of colleagues in the teaching of science
- Provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.
- Produce an annual evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the subject, which indicates areas for further improvement.
- Be responsible for the science input to the school improvement plan.