

SCIENCE POLICY



Learning to make the world a better place”

Draft Policy	SUMMER 2017
Awaiting Ratification	

Introduction

This policy outlines the teaching and management of the Science taught and learnt at St John's Angell Town Primary School. We recognise the importance of Science in every aspect of daily life. As one of the core subjects taught in Primary Schools, we give the teaching and learning of Science the prominence it requires. As a Christian school we are committed to develop the children's awareness and appreciation of the wonder of God's creation.

The Scientific area of learning is concerned with increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding of our world, and with developing skills associated with Science as a process of enquiry.

The experience of pupils using Scientific methods of investigation should enable them to approach the practical, social and economic issues of life in a disciplined and systematic way.

It should develop the natural curiosity of the child, encourage respect for living organisms and the physical environment and provide opportunities for critical evaluation of evidence.

Science education, as well as being a satisfying and enjoyable experience in itself, should contribute to the enrichment and quality of life.

The National Curriculum 2014, will provide a structure for the science curriculum taught throughout the school.

We endeavour to ensure that the Science curriculum we provide will give children the confidence and motivation to continue to further develop their skills into the next stage of education and into adulthood.

1. Aims:

At St John's Angell Town Primary School our science teaching offers opportunities for children to:

- Access a broadly balanced, progressive curriculum which includes scientific enquiry, life and living things, materials and their properties and physical processes.
- Develop scientific skills to explain and interpret a range of familiar phenomena in everyday life.
- Consider ways in which living things and the environment need care, protection and respect.
- Use both first hand experiences and secondary sources to investigate and acquire scientific knowledge.
- Use a range of methods to communicate their scientific information and present it in a systematic, scientific manner, including I.C.T., diagrams, graphs and charts.

- Develop a respect for the materials and equipment they handle with regard to their own, and other children's safety.
- Develop an enthusiasm and enjoyment of scientific learning and discovery.

2. Teaching guidelines for science:

At St John's we aim for high quality teaching and learning in Science. The school will teach science in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum.

We believe the best way for children to learn science is to involve them in firsthand experience. We try to help them make sense of this experience through discussion and by relating it to everyday life. Science lessons may contain the following elements:

- Discussion: what they already know from experience, what they have learnt so far, what they will be finding out next.
- Teaching: directly to the whole class or through group work or individual work.
- Practical tasks or investigative work: working in groups or individually, practising scientific skills, finding out answers, being encouraged to think scientifically.

Planning for continuity and progression:

Medium term plans are written using the National Curriculum. These plans show how the teaching units are distributed across the year. They also identify opportunities for investigative work.

Short term planning is the responsibility of individual teachers, who build on their medium-term planning by taking account of the needs of children in a particular class and identifying the way in which ideas might be taught in the class.

Experimental and Investigative Science is integrated into each unit. In each year there are opportunities for children to carry out the process of investigating a scientific idea.

To accomplish our aims in science education we shall plan carefully, monitor children's progress and provide a variety of teaching approaches and resources.

We will keep the teaching of science under regular review, as part of our on-going school development plans and monitor the effectiveness of this policy.

Assessment:

At the end of each topic, teachers will update pupil skill sheets as appropriate and use formative assessment to determine what skills to teach next. Teachers will look at the totality of each pupil's achievements over a year and use their professional judgements and children's work to determine their attainment. The Science Leader evaluates the medium-term plans to ensure there is consistency within the units and progression throughout the key stages.

Early Years:

To achieve the desirable outcomes of the early years curriculum, children will experience a variety of activities often through firsthand experience.

Inclusion:

Our school aims to be an inclusive school. We aim to make all pupils feel included in all our activities. We have systems in place for the early identification of barriers to learning and participation; so that all pupils can engage in lessons and activities. We have high expectations for all children and set suitable targets.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Role of the Head Teacher:

- The Head teacher will actively support by encouraging staff, praising good practice and supporting staff development and in service training.

The Role of the Science Subject Leader:

- Be a role model and demonstrate good practice;
- Manage the provision and deployment of resources;
- Encourage and support staff in the implementation of agreed procedures;
- Arrange INSET as appropriate to the needs of individuals and the school;
- Monitor teachers' planning as part of on-going subject monitoring and evaluation of practice;
- Monitor progression of students; planning for improvements accordingly;
- Lead the evaluation and review of the school's Science policy;
- Manage the budget for this curriculum area.

The Role of the Class Teacher:

- The Class Teacher will be responsible for the teaching of science as set out in this policy. Science will often be taught at least once per week but may be blocked, depending on the needs of the topic.

This Policy will be reviewed every two years or as required by the Governing Body.

Agreed/ Ratified by Governors:

Signed By:

Designation: Chair of Governors

Next Review: