

St Thomas CE (VC) Primary School



Science Policy

Policy Reviewed on:	May 2022
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Introduction

Through a supportive, inspiring and caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential. We embrace Christian values and ensure all children are ready for their next steps. Science provides the foundation for understanding the world around us and as such, it is a fundamental aspect of all children's learning. Where possible this relies on first hand experiences. Science is one of the core subjects in the National Curriculum. The main aspects of science to be studied will be determined by the programmes of study of the National Curriculum 2014 and will run alongside established school policies and procedures.

Aims and Objectives

Science at St Thomas Primary School aims to teach our children the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to question and understand concepts and phenomena that occur in the world around them and enables them to make sense of the world in which they live. Children will learn the skills required for scientific enquiry and they will begin to understand the way science will affect their future on a personal, national and global level.

The objectives of the science curriculum are:

- to develop pupils' enjoyment and interest in science and an appreciation of its contribution to all aspects of everyday life
- to build on pupils' curiosity and sense of awe of the natural world and to question, predict and interpret
- to use a planned range of investigations and practical activities to give pupils a greater understanding of the concepts and knowledge of science
- to introduce pupils to the technical terminology and specialist vocabulary of science
- to develop pupils' basic practical skills and their ability to make accurate and appropriate measurements, undertaking comparative and fair testing
- to develop pupils' use of computing in their science studies
- to extend the learning environment for our pupils via our environmental areas and the locality wherever possible
- to promote a 'healthy lifestyle' in our pupils

Guidance

Where possible the science curriculum will be related to the real world and everyday examples will be used. Science is a part of every aspect of our lives and we will relate it to all areas of the curriculum. We will also ensure that children are aware and understand the positive contribution of both men and women to the development of science and the contribution from those of other cultures.

St Thomas Primary School positively promotes equal opportunities for all and equal access to the curriculum. The SLT, Class Teachers and ETAs at St Thomas Primary School are responsible for ensuring that all children, irrespective of gender, learning ability, physical

disability, ethnicity and social circumstances, have access to the whole curriculum and make the greatest possible progress. Where appropriate, work will be adapted to meet a child's specific needs and, where necessary extra support will be given. For the more able children they will be provided with opportunities and activities that will suitably challenge them.

All children will be taught how to use scientific equipment safely when using it during practical tasks or investigations. Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants will check equipment after each use and report any damage, taking faulty equipment out of action. Class teachers can discuss the need for new resources with the subject leader.

Monitoring and Review

The majority of the work undertaken in science lessons is of a practical or oral nature and, as such, recording will take a variety of forms which will make marking different. It is, however, important that written work is marked according to the school's policy, regularly and clearly, as an aid to progression and to celebrate achievement. When appropriate, children may be asked to self-assess or peer assess their own or other's work. Marking for improvement comments in a child's book must be relevant to the learning objective to help children to better focus on future targets for their progression.

- Throughout the school teachers will assess whether children are working at/above or below the expected level for their age based on their understanding and application of the content of the National Curriculum 2014. Progress and attainment is reported to parents through parents' evenings, reports and on request. The Science Co-ordinator will collate assessment data and set new priorities for development of science in subsequent years.

It is the responsibility of the Science Co-ordinator, the Headteacher and Governors to monitor the standards of children's work, including the quality of teaching in science. This is achieved through lesson observations, moderation of work and through the monitoring of attainment and progress of children at St Thomas Primary School. In addition to this the Science Co-ordinator will provide the Headteacher with a leadership plan that evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the science curriculum and sets out areas for further improvement. The Science Co-ordinator is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of science, providing support for staff where necessary and helping to develop colleagues' expertise in the subject.

They will review any changes to the national curriculum, advise on their implementation and communicate developments in the subject to all teaching staff.