

WILLIAM AUSTIN INFANT SCHOOL

SCIENCE POLICY

JUNE 2024

Rationale

We believe that the study of science is of fundamental importance in helping children to make sense of the world. It stimulates their natural curiosity and provokes them to ask and discover answers to important questions. Through Science children are given opportunities to develop essential skills.

Aims

- To develop children's ability to think logically
- To teach children scientific language and to ensure a firm understanding of scientific terms outlined in the new programmes of study
- To provide children with the language, confidence and opportunities to describe their observations and findings clearly
- To develop children's recording skills and competence in reading, writing and maths so they are able to apply these to scientific enquiry
- To develop children's enquiry skills by providing a wide range of opportunities for them to raise questions, obtain evidence and communicate their findings.
- To develop independent thinking, collaborative working, problem solving and reasoning by giving children the skills and opportunities to plan their enquiries.
- To ensure that all children have equal access to the science curriculum so that they can develop their skills according to their needs and capabilities as individuals.
- To develop children's understanding of how science is relevant to their own personal health and wellbeing.

Context of Teaching

Year R

The new EYFS guidance for Science has a focus on three main areas. These are:

Communication and Language:

- Understand 'why; questions and ask questions to gain information about why things happen and how things work.
- Talk about their observations.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- Make healthy choice about food, drink, activity and tooth brushing.

Understanding the World:

- Carry out simple investigations.
- Use their senses to explore, recognise features of, sort and group living things, objects and events.
- Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and animals.
- Plant seeds and care for growing plants.
- Investigate and learn about mini beasts and their habitat.
- Carry out simple investigations
- Investigate and learn about mini beasts and their habitats

Year 1 and 2

In Years 1 and 2 the Science curriculum will follow the New National Curriculum guidelines all aspects of the National Curriculum for Science are addressed. Science is taught both discretely and as part of the Topic based Curriculum and where possible, links are made with other curriculum areas, especially speaking and listening, English, Maths and Computing. Each unit is taught over a half-term span, with working scientifically as an integral part of each unit of study.

Whole school Science days take place on a yearly basis during the Summer term. This supports children to access Science in fun and engaging ways. Science day builds upon prior learning in an informal context.

Classroom Organisation

The children are taught in a variety of ways-as a whole class, in ability groups, in mixed ability teams or independently depending on the objectives of a particular lesson. Whenever possible science teaching is supported by bi-lingual teachers and teaching assistants. We differentiate work according to the individual physical or learning needs of children. Children's work is marked identifying core subject and scientific strengths and next steps. Once per term children should be given the opportunity to take their learning outdoors and have a Science lesson outside the classroom.

Science Capital

We want to provide and expose pupils to as much Science capital as possible. This will mean that children will aspire to work within STEM (Science, Technology, Computing and Engineering) subjects regardless and irrespective of their background. This will be met with our Science days, clubs and visitors.

Health and Safety

Health and safety policy should be taken into account by all staff members. Particular attention must be given to avoiding the use any things that aggravates individual pupils' allergies. In particular during whole school Science days.

Resources

An annual budget is provided to allow for the purchase of new and expendable resources. They are purchased by the subject leader in consultation with other members

of staff. Currently resources for Key Stage 1 are stored in the meeting room across two cupboards.

Resources for the Foundation Stage are stored in the cupboard outside Poppy class. A small amount of equipment is stored in individual classrooms. The use of IT resources to support children's learning is encouraged.

Assessment and Target Setting

Assessment has been developed to assess achievement and progress in relation to the skills in the new programmes of study. Year R teachers assess using the EYFS Profile and use the strand Knowledge and Understanding of the World.

Year 1 use new Science tracking grids to monitor and assess pupils' progress on a termly basis. These tracking sheets then inform end of year judgements and are shared with Year 2 teachers during transition. This enables Year 2 teachers to build upon prior learning.

Year 2 the use new Science tracking grids to monitor and assess pupils' progress and attainment. This takes place termly and informs end of year judgements. Both Year 1 and 2 teachers use Science exemplification materials to further support judgements and make links to the curriculum.

Monitoring and evaluation

The subject leader monitors planning and has leadership time to adapt and amend existing planning. Time for drop ins and monitoring of Science lessons and work takes place throughout the year. Each year group is provided with feedback and steps to implements to help raise attainment in Science. Subject leaders are on hand to support staff and ensure that the policy is in practice. They also responsible for ordering resources for year groups and ensuring resources are organised. The head teacher and subject leader evaluate progress through an annual scrutiny of children's work, and by discussing the work with the children. End of KS1 assessments are used to help set future whole school targets each year.

PSQM Science award

Currently the school has achieved the Gold PSQM award in Science. Subject leaders will need to ensure high levels of attainment and progress in Science is maintained.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in line with the school plan agenda. The next planned review will be in 2027