



SCIENCE POLICY

Introduction

This policy is an outline to the teaching and management of the Science taught and learnt at Snettisham Primary School and a reference point when any decisions concerning the subject are made. The school's policy for Science is based on the new National Curriculum (2014) for Key Stage 2, along with the belief that children should have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas and skills, relating them to everyday situations. We also believe that children should learn ways of thinking and explore values and attitudes through science. Our thinking in terms of teaching and learning, assessment, recording and reporting is reflected here. The policy has been drawn up to reflect our whole school approach. The science Subject Leader is responsible for the implementation of the policy.

Aims and Objectives of Science

These aims are intended for all pupils in school. How they are implemented will be dependent on the age and ability of the pupils.

1. To provide opportunities for children to learn where possible through investigation and first-hand experience about the world around them, and to use this experience to develop their understanding of key scientific ideas.
2. To encourage children to make links between different phenomena and experiences, seeking explanations and thinking critically about ideas.
3. To develop the practical skills needed to investigate questions: predicting, asking questions, making inferences, concluding and evaluating based on evidence and understanding, gathered from investigative activities.
4. To nurture an enthusiasm and interest in Science.
5. To encourage the children to respect the environment and living things and their own health and safety.

Equal opportunity

We are committed to providing a teaching environment conducive to learning. Each child is valued, respected and challenged regardless of ability, gender, race, religion, social background, culture or disability.

Cross-curricular linked – Each unit is covered bi-annually.

- Teacher assessment is used to assess children's progress.
- Planning takes into account that a high emphasis is placed on the development of pupils' skills of scientific enquiry (Working scientifically) and as a result these skills are taught alongside the knowledge and understanding in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- The teaching of Biology, Chemistry and Physics is taught through topic approach and, wherever possible, with links to Literacy. The order in which the units are taught varies from year to year and consideration is given to the sharing of resources, both within school, and with our partner school, Heacham Junior School.
- The teaching of Science is the responsibility of, in most cases, non-specialist teachers. In each year group, the children benefit from whole class or group teaching as well as being encouraged to work individually. Classroom assistants are timetabled to support some groups.
- It may be necessary to adapt instructions or activities to suit children with special needs. It is intended that the schemes of work allow those children with particular flair in Science to extend their experience, skills and knowledge.
- Science lessons have no imposed formal structure but may contain elements of discussion, direct teaching, practical tasks or investigative work, recording and communicating.
- The schemes of work include activities that are of equal relevance to boys and girls from all cultural backgrounds and should encourage each child to develop an interest in all areas of the subject.
- Science days, fieldwork and visits to The High School are organised at appropriate times in order to develop further the pupils' knowledge and understanding.

Planning and Resources

In order to ensure progression and coverage of the knowledge and skills of Science throughout the school, planning is carried out as a whole staff. Ideas and resources are shared across Snettisham Primary School and Heacham Junior School to develop best practice and value for money.

Resources include topic boxes for each scheme of work. It is the responsibility of the Science Subject Leader to ensure these are maintained.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

- Short term assessment is an informal part of every lesson to check the children's understanding and to provide information for future planning.
- Medium-term assessments take place at the end of each unit of work, based upon the results of individual topic assessment papers.
- Achievement in individual topics is recorded on an assessment grid (based on the 'I can' statements of 'Weaving the Curriculum' Focus Education Publication) and passed on to the Subject Leader.
- As part of the annual report parents receive general statements on their attitude, confidence and behaviour as well as their performance and capability in Science.

Information and Communication Technology

ICT will be used to support teaching and learning in Science. It will involve the use of computers and other audio-visual aids. The Interactive whiteboard will regularly be used to support activities and enhance the learning of scientific concepts along with freely available resources on the internet, such as virtual experiments, interactive games and multimedia clips.

Health and Safety

Health and safety awareness is an integral part of our teaching and learning. Children are taught the safe use of science resources and staff insist on good practice.

Role of the Subject Leader

The Subject Leader is responsible for:

- Providing support and guidance to individual members of staff in the implementation of the agreed procedures and closely monitor the progression of activities.
- Purchase and organise all Science resources, ensuring that resources are maintained and organised.
- Relevant development at local and national level will be disseminated and the Subject Leader will monitor and review the success of the scheme of work as part of the planned monitoring programme.

All policies should be cross referenced with the SEND, Inclusion and Equality Policies which are available on the school website: www.snettisham-primary.co.uk