

St. Mary's Church of England Primary School Fownhope

SCIENCE POLICY



What we nurture today, flourishes tomorrow

UPDATED MAY 2020

A rich education is more than simply learning reading, writing and maths. It is about helping a child grow into their full potential as inquisitive, well balanced and cheerful adults. As a Christian school we nurture children to display the 'fruit of the Spirit', which is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). At St Mary's you will find children growing in mind, body and spirit as they form good relationships with each other, the staff and discover a faith which will sustain them in a rapidly changing world. As our motto has it: "what we nurture today flourishes tomorrow"

1. Introduction :

At St Mary's 'Science' means children gaining the knowledge, skills and understanding to make sense of the world around them. Through a positive, caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential. Science is a systematic investigation of the physical, chemical and biological aspects of the world which relies on first hand experiences and on other sources of information. The scientific process and pupils' problem solving activities will be used to deepen their understanding of the concepts involved. The main aspects of science to be studied will be determined by the programmes of study of the National Curriculum. Through science, the pupils of St Mary's will continue to deepen their respect, care and appreciation for the natural world and all its phenomena.

2. Aims / Objectives :

We live in an increasingly scientific and technological age where children need to acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them for life. At our school, science aims to :

- Stimulate children's interest and enjoyment in the area of science.
- Develop through practical work the skills of observation, prediction, investigation, interpretation, communication, questioning and increased use of precise measurement skills and IT.
- Encourage and enable pupils to offer their own suggestions, and to be creative in their approach to science, and to gain enjoyment from their scientific work.
- Enable children to develop their skills of co-operation through working with others and to encourage, where possible, ways for children to explore science in forms which are relevant and meaningful to them.
- Encourage children to collect relevant evidence and to question outcome and to persevere.
- Encourage children to treat the living and non-living environment with respect and sensitivity.
- To encourage children to raise questions and learn how to investigate and explore these using both first-hand experience and secondary sources.
- To help children understand the nature of scientific ideas and to obtain and test the evidence for them.
- To help children recognise and assess risks and hazards to themselves and to others when working with living things and materials and to take action to control them.

3. These aims are realised by :

- Teaching the Foundation Stage and National Curriculum programmes of study for Science as set out in the EYFS and Key Stages 1 & 2.
- Subject-specific and cross-curricular study making links with other curriculum areas.
- The revisiting of elements of the programmes of study where appropriate e.g. human reproduction and puberty in years 5 and 6.
- Meaningful 'blocking' of study or set number of lessons a week as best meets the needs of learners.
- Class teachers planning coverage in the most appropriate way for each class dependant on ability, prior learning and maturity.
- The Science co-ordinator monitoring standards through scrutiny of plans and children's work and by class visits and discussion with children and teachers.

4. Outcomes

- Assessment for learning is continuous throughout the planning, teaching and learning cycle. We focus on assessing one topic at a time, and we assess children's work in science by making judgements as we observe children during lessons, question, talk and listen to

children, and review their written work. At the end of each year, teachers make a formal comment on each pupil's progress in science on their end of year report.

- Assessment in science is based upon scientific knowledge and understanding, rather than achievement in English or Mathematics. In the Foundation stage we assess children's knowledge and understanding according to the EYFS Development Stages.

5. Health and Safety

- A risk assessment will be made, as part of the planning process, before any potentially dangerous scientific activity is undertaken.
- Children will be informed of any risks or hazards but will also be encouraged to assess and identify risks for themselves.
- Children will be shown how to use scientific equipment safely.
- Safety glasses will be used where appropriate.

6. Success Criteria for the Science Policy

- Children leave St Mary's with the necessary investigative skills, knowledge and vocabulary for Science at Key Stage 3.
- Children remain enthusiastic and well-motivated learners in this subject.

Science Co-ordinator - Mrs Dawn Harwood

May 2020

In line with the school's guidelines this policy will be reviewed every two years.

This policy was approved by the Governing Body on:	15 th May 2020
Signature of Headteacher:	T. Milne
Signature of Chair of Governors:	C. Moore
Review Date:	May 2022