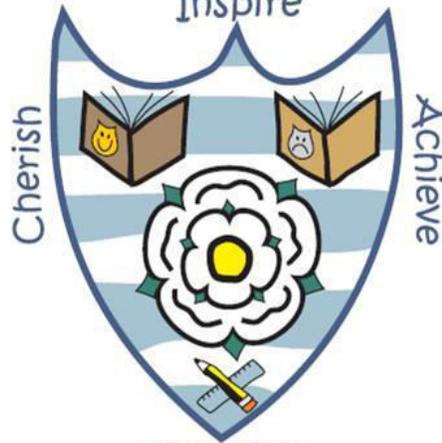


Birkwood Primary

Inspire



Together
School

SCIENCE POLICY

UPDATED OCTOBER 2015

At Birkwood Primary School we believe one of the roles of science is that of nurturing curiosity and creativity. We aim for children to develop through investigative skills an understanding of the local and wider world in which we live.

Aims of our Science teaching

As teachers of Science we aim to:

- Encourage children to raise questions which lead them to search for their own answers to make sense of the real world through the 'Ask it' strand of Open Futures
- Stimulate children through effective questioning, by both supporting and challenging their thinking
- Provide a working environment that is stimulating, enriching and challenging
- Ensure that children are actively involved in their own learning
- Challenge children through a variety of experiences which enable success and progression
- Provide a variety of teaching methods and experiences so that children will be able to acquire the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding relevant to their age and ability
- Develop children's understanding and use of scientific language
- To fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum
- Develop the Open Futures strands, 'Grow it' and 'Cook it' through practical sessions

Teaching and learning styles

Our principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding. We believe that the best way to learn science is through first-hand experience and a range of domestic and environmental contexts that are familiar and of interest to them. Children are encouraged to develop independent learning skills and higher order thinking skills.

In each year group, Science is taught in an imaginative and largely practical and investigative way. The children benefit from whole class or group teaching as well as being encouraged to work individually. Wherever possible, we aim to use the outdoor learning environment.

The Open Futures strands, 'Cook it' and 'Grow it' are an integral part of the way we teach scientific enquiry.

Science planning

In the Foundation Stage, science is taught through 'Knowledge and Understanding of the World' which is part of the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' framework.

The school uses the 'Switched On' programme as a basis for its curriculum planning. We have KS1 and KS2 schemes of work which identify areas to be covered by each year group, ensuring continuity and progression. Where possible science work is planned to link with other curriculum topics but it is mainly taught in a discrete manner.

Links between science and other subject areas

Literacy

Science contributes significantly to literacy through speaking and listening, reading and writing.

Numeracy

It enhances Numeracy through measures, application of number, estimation and prediction.

ICT

ICT is used as a tool to handle and process information, to measure, to communicate and to model children's ideas and to help answer their questions. CD ROMS and the Internet are used to promote learning through interactivity.

D & T

Children are encouraged to apply their scientific knowledge to creative technological activities.

Open Futures

'Grow it' allows children to develop scientific knowledge about fruit and vegetables, plant life, healthy meals, insects and other animals, life cycles and classification. 'Cook it' allows children to explore chemical changes as well as healthy eating, food groups and how the body uses food for energy.

Safety Guidelines

General safety is the class teachers' responsibility. All teachers are responsible for the safety arrangements for their class and must demonstrate the safe use of equipment. They should make reference to the School's Health and Safety Policy and the safety procedures recommended in the 'Be Safe' Document -The Code of Practice for Health and Safety in Primary Science.

Assessment

It is our aim to assess children's ideas and skills at the start of a topic by giving them the opportunity to express their thoughts, make predictions and explain their reasons.

Formative assessments are an informal part of every lesson to check children's understanding and for teacher's to inform future planning. Suitable tasks may include:

- small group discussions whilst performing a practical task
- specific assignments for individual pupils
- individual discussions in which children are encouraged to evaluate their own work and progress

Assessment in the Foundation Stage is on going, through observation and evidencing.

Resources

Science equipment to be used across age ranges is stored centrally in the Science Resource cupboard opposite the Year 4 classroom. The Foundation Unit and Classrooms have other resources specific to their topic. Teachers are able to access a wide range of Science resources through web sites and ICT programs.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of the Science Co-ordinator to monitor the standards of the children's work and the quality of teaching in science. They are also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of Science, by being informed about current developments in the subject and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject.

This policy will be reviewed in September 2016.

Signed _____ Headteacher

Date _____

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Date _____