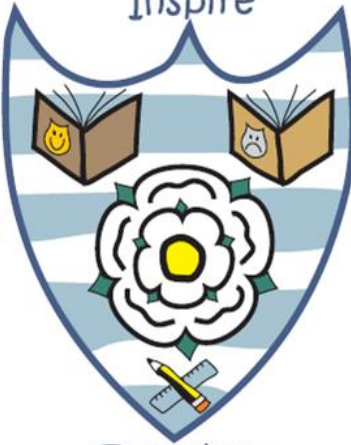


Birkwood Primary

Inspire

Cherish



Achieve

Together

School

# Science Policy

**UPDATED NOVEMBER 2010**

## **What is Science at Birkwood Primary School**

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
- 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

### **Teaching and learning style**

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.

### **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' curriculum.

The school uses the 'Star Science' 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.

Medium Term Plans are kept in Year Group Medium Term Planning Files and areas highlighted when they have been completed.

### **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.

## **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

Medium term assessments take place at the end of every unit of work based on the National Curriculum level of attainment.

Assessment in the Foundation Stage is on going, through observation and evidencing. This information is entered onto J2SL which at the end of Foundation Two forms part of the Foundation Stage Profile.

## **Resources**

Science equipment to be used across age ranges is stored centrally in the Science Resource cupboards opposite the Year 5 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.

