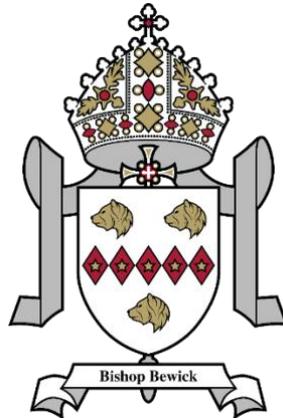


St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Science Policy



Policy Ratified by Governors:

Review Date: November 2025

Signed: _____ (Chair of Governors)

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School recognises the importance of science education in teaching pupils about the world around them. This policy will ensure the school complies with the national curriculum and help pupils to have a solid grounding in science, a positive attitude towards scientific knowledge, and a strong understanding of experimental processes.

1. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002
2. The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013
3. DfE (2013) 'Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2'
4. DfE (2023) 'Early years foundation stage statutory framework: For group and school-based providers'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

5. Health and Safety Policy
6. Primary Teaching and Learning Policy
7. Primary Assessment Policy

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The Local Governing Committee is responsible for:

- Ensuring a broad and balanced science curriculum is implemented in the school.
- Ensuring the school's science curriculum is accessible to all pupils.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring the school's science curriculum is implemented consistently.
- Ensuring appropriate resources are allocated to the science curriculum.
- Ensuring all pupils are appropriately supported.
- Appointing a member of staff to lead on the school's approach to teaching science.

The Science Lead is responsible for:

- Preparing policy documents, curriculum plans and schemes of work for science.
- Reviewing changes to the national curriculum and advising on their implementation.
- Monitoring the learning and teaching of science, providing support for staff where necessary.
- Organising the deployment of resources and carrying out an **annual** audit of all science resources.
- Leading staff meetings and providing relevant staff with the appropriate training.
- Advising on the contribution of science to other curriculum areas.

Teachers are responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with this policy.
- Ensuring that lessons are taught in line with the school's Health and Safety Policy at all times.
- Liaising with the science lead about key topics, resources and support for individual pupils if required.
- Ensuring that all relevant statutory content is covered within the school year.
- Monitoring the progress of pupils in their class and reporting this in accordance with school policies.
- Reporting any concerns regarding the teaching of the subject to the science lead or a member of the SLT.
- Undertaking any training that is necessary to teach the subject effectively.

3. Rationale

Science is a body of knowledge and understanding built up through experimental testing of ideas. Science is also a methodology; a practical way of finding reliable answers to questions we may ask about the world around us. Science at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is about developing children's ideas and ways of working that enable them to:

- a. Think critically and communicate their understanding;

- b. Have opportunities to apply their scientific skills in different contexts across the curriculum;
- c. Develop enquiry skills useful for science and across the curriculum.

4. The National Curriculum

The national curriculum will be followed for all science teaching.

During Nursery and Reception, in accordance with the 'Early years foundation stage statutory framework: For group and school-based providers', focus will be put on the seven early learning goals (ELGs), with the scientific aspect of pupils' work relating to the objectives set out within the framework.

The ELGs cover:

1. Communication and language: listening, attention and understanding; and speaking.
2. Personal, social and emotional development: self-regulation, managing self, and building relationships.
3. Physical development: gross motor skills and fine motor skills.
4. Literacy: comprehension, word reading, and writing.
5. Mathematics: number and numerical patterns.
6. Understanding the world: past and present; people, culture and communities; and the natural world.
7. Expressive arts and design: creating with materials; and being imaginative and expressive.

As with other learning in Reception and Nursery children will mainly learn about science through games and play – which objects float and sink during water play, for example. Activities such as these will help children to develop important skills such as observation, prediction and critical thinking. In this phase, children are often introduced to individuals, concepts and ideas, building firm foundations for progressive learning in Key Stage 1.

During Years 1 and 2, pupils will be taught to:

Working scientifically

- Ask simple questions and recognise that they can be answered in different ways.
- Observe closely, using simple equipment.
- Perform simple tests.
- Identify and classify.
- Use their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions.
- Gather and record data to help in answering questions.

Year 1 pupils will also be taught to:

Plants

- Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.
- Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.

Animals, including humans

- Identify and name a variety of common animals, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.
- Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.
- Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals, i.e. fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets.
- Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense.

Everyday materials

- Distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made.
- Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock.
- Describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials.
- Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties.

Seasonal changes

- Observe changes across the four seasons.
- Observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies.

Year 2 pupils will also be taught to:

Living things and their habitats

- Explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive.
- Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.
- Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats.
- Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.

Plants

- Observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants.
- Find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.

Animals, including humans

- Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.
- Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival, i.e. water, food and air.
- Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.

Uses of everyday materials

- Identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard, for particular uses.
- Find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.

During Years 3 and 4, pupils will be taught to:

Working scientifically

- Ask relevant questions and use different types of scientific enquiries to answer them.
- Set up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests.
- Make systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, take accurate measurements using standard units and a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers.
- Gather, record, classify and present data in a variety of ways to help answer questions.
- Record findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts and tables.
- Report on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions.
- Use results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions.
- Identify differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes.
- Use straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings.

Year 3 pupils will also be taught to:

Plants

- Identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants, i.e. roots, stem or trunk, leaves, and flowers.
- Explore the requirements of plants for life and growth, i.e. air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow, and how requirements vary from plant to plant.
- Investigate the way in which water is transported within plants.
- Explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

Animals, including humans

- Identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat.
- Identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.

Rocks

- Compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties.
- Describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock.
- Recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

Light

- Recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light.
- Notice that light is reflected from surfaces.
- Recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes.
- Recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object.
- Find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change.

Forces and magnets

- Compare how things move on different surfaces.
- Notice that some forces need contact between two objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance.
- Observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others.
- Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet and identify some magnetic materials.
- Describe magnets as having two poles.
- Predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.

Year 4 pupils will also be taught to:

Living things and their habitats

- Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.
- Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.
- Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

Animals, including humans

- Describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans.
- Identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions.
- Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

States of matter

- Compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.
- Observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C).
- Identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.

Sound

- Identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with something vibrating.
- Recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear.
- Find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it.
- Find patterns between the volume of a sound and the strength of the vibrations that produced it.
- Recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.

Electricity

- Identify common appliances that run on electricity.
- Construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers.
- Identify whether a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery.
- Recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether a lamp lights in a simple series circuit.
- Recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with being good conductors.

During Years 5 and 6, pupils will be taught to:

Working scientifically

- Plan different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary.
- Take measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate.
- Record data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs.
- Use test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests.
- Report and present findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships, and explanations of the results and the degree of trust in them, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations.
- Identify scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.

Year 5 pupils will also be taught to:

Living things and their habitats

- Describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird.
- Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

Animals, including humans

- Describe the changes as humans develop to old age.

Properties and changes of materials

- Compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets.
- Know that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution and describe how to recover a substance from a solution.
- Use knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated, including through filtering, sieving and evaporating.
- Give reasons, based on evidence from comparative and fair tests, for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic.
- Demonstrate that dissolving, mixing and changes of state are reversible changes.
- Explain that some changes result in the formation of new materials, and that this kind of change is not usually reversible, including changes associated with burning and the action of acid on bicarbonate of soda.

Earth and space

- Describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system.
- Describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth.
- Describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies.
- Use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the Sun across the sky.

Forces

- Explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object.

- Identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction that act between moving surfaces.
- Recognise that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

Year 6 pupils will also be taught to:

Living things and their habitats

- Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals.
- Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

Animals, including humans

- Identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood.
- Recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function.
- Describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.

Evolution and inheritance

- Recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.
- Recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents.
- Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.

Light

- Recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines.
- Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye.
- Explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes.
- Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

Electricity

- Associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit.
- Compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers, and the on or off position of switches.
- Use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.

5. The Contribution of Science to Teaching in Other Areas of the Curriculum

English

Science contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Some of the texts that the children study as part of the English Curriculum are of a scientific nature. The children develop oral skills in science lessons through discussions (for example the environment) and through recounting their observations of scientific experiments. They develop their writing skills through writing reports and projects and by recording information.

Mathematics

Science contributes to the teaching of mathematics in a number of ways. The children use weights and measures and learn to use and apply number. Through working on investigations, they learn to estimate and predict. They

develop the skills of accurate observation and recording of events. They use numbers in many of their answers and conclusions.

Personal, social and health education (PSHE)

Science makes a significant contribution to the teaching of personal, social and health education. Science lends itself to raising matters of citizenship and social welfare. For example, children study the way people recycle material and how environments are changed for better or worse. Children benefit from the nature of the subject in that it gives them opportunities to take part in debates and discussions. Science teaching offers children many opportunities to examine some of the fundamental questions in life. Through many of the amazing processes that affect living things, children develop a sense of awe and wonder regarding the nature of our world. Science raises many social and moral questions. Through the teaching of science, children have the opportunity to discuss, for example, the effects of smoking and the moral questions involved in this issue. We give them the chance to reflect on the way people care for the planet and how science can contribute to the way we manage the earth's resources. Science teaches children about the reasons why people are different and, by developing the children's knowledge and understanding of physical and environmental factors, it promotes respect for other people.

Science and Computing

Computing enhances the teaching of Science in our school significantly. Software is used to support children's work in science by learning how to find, select, and analyse information. Computing is also used to record, present and interpret data and to review, modify and evaluate their work and improve its presentation.

6. Teaching

All relevant staff are briefed on the school's lesson planning procedures as part of staff training.

Throughout the school, science is taught as a discrete lesson and as part of cross-curricular teaching when appropriate. The statutory national curriculum content from the DfE's 'Science programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2', as outlined above, as the starting point for their planning.

Lesson plans will balance visual, auditory and kinaesthetic elements used in teaching, ensuring that all pupils with different learning styles can access the learning experience. All lessons will have clear learning objectives, which are shared and reviewed with pupils.

Long-term planning will be used to outline the units to be taught within each year group. Medium-term planning will be used to outline the vocabulary and skills that will be taught in each unit of work, as well as highlighting the opportunities for assessment, identifying learning objectives, main learning activities and differentiation. Short-term planning will be used flexibly to reflect the objective of the lesson, the success criteria and the aim of the next lesson, building on medium-term planning and taking into account pupils' needs.

Teaching: Pupils will be taught to describe associated processes and key characteristics in common language, as well as understand and use technical terminology and specialist vocabulary. Lessons will allow for a wide range of scientific enquiry, including the following:

- Questioning, predicting and interpreting
- Pattern seeking
- Practical experiences
- Collaborative work
- Carrying out investigations
- Carrying out time-controlled observations
- Classifying and grouping
- Undertaking comparative and fair testing
- Researching using secondary sources

Opportunities for outdoor learning will be provided where possible. Each year group will have the opportunity to undertake science-based external educational visits or visitors at least once per year.

Science and Inclusion

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we teach science to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Science forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our science teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

When progress falls significantly outside the expected range, the child may have special educational needs. Our assessment process looks at a range of factors – classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style, and differentiation – so that we can take some additional or different action to enable the child to learn more effectively. Assessment against the National Curriculum allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels. This helps ensure that our teaching is matched to the child's needs.

We enable all pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning science. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

7. Assessment for learning

Children's progress is continually monitored throughout their time at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School and is used to inform future teaching and learning. By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study as set out in the National Curriculum. These are set out as statutory requirements. We also draw on the non-statutory requirements to extend our children and provide an appropriate level of challenge.

Assessment for learning is continuous throughout the planning, teaching and learning cycle. However, children are more formally assessed half termly in KS1 and KS2 using a variety of methods:-

- Observing children at work, individually, in pairs, in a group, and in classes.
- Questioning, talking and listening to children
- Considering work/materials / investigations produced by children together with discussion about this with them.

Children identify what they know already about each topic, as well as what they would like to know. At the end of each blocked science topic, this key knowledge is checked. Outcomes of work also evidence its acquisition. In EYFS, we assess the children's Understanding of the World according to the Development Matters statements and some aspects of Expressive Arts Design are also science based.

8. Resources

Science resources for each unit are stored in the resources cupboard near the ICT Suite.

The science lead is responsible for ensuring that all resources and equipment are sufficiently maintained, and for maintaining an inventory of resources. The science lead will carry out an annual audit of the science resources, reordering any consumables when necessary. Any equipment or resources which are a cause of concern will be removed immediately.

Equipment will be checked by the relevant science teacher prior to each use and any damages or defects will be reported to the science lead immediately. Staff will also inform the science lead of any changes regarding science resources, such as when supplies of resources have run out or new resources are required. The science lead is responsible for negotiating requests from staff and ensuring resources are bought within the amount allocated in the annual budget.

Health and Safety

Staff will act in accordance with the school's Health and Safety Policy at all times.

All pupils will be shown how to correctly use equipment prior to use and will be monitored by staff whilst using equipment. Pupils will also be made aware of how they are expected to behave, ensuring that they show respect to other people and the environment, and the personal safety protocols and protective equipment needed when using equipment or carrying out tasks, e.g. goggles.

At the beginning of any experiment, the science teacher will outline the purpose of the experiment to the class, and all hazards and safety precautions will be thoroughly outlined. Any experiments or activities not previously conducted by the science teacher will be trialled prior to being undertaken with pupils. Accidents and near-misses will be reported following the school's reporting procedures.

9. Monitoring and review

The monitoring of the standards of children's work and of the quality of teaching in Science is the responsibility of the subject leader. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in their teaching, being informed about current developments in Science and providing a strategic lead and direction for this subject in the school. The subject leader reviews and evaluates the action plan, budget and planning annually.

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to teachers and other relevant staff.