

Signature and date [FGB/committee chair]

Slimbridge Primary School Policy

Approved: September 2017

To review: Every three years or when necessary.

Slimbridge Primary School Science Policy

The main aspects of science to be studied is determined by the National Curriculum 2014. We aim to give all our children a high-quality science education, where they develop a natural curiosity and understanding about the world around us. In learning about the disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics, our children will begin to explore how science has changed our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. Children will learn to ask scientific questions and begin to appreciate the way science will affect their future on a personal, national and global level.

AIMS

The aims and objectives of the National Curriculum for Science ensure that children get broad and balanced coverage of all scientific disciplines throughout the primary years. Children are encouraged to carry out scientific enquiries, observe phenomena, explore and ask questions about the world and to develop an understanding of the present and future implications of science.

Teaching and Learning

EYFS – science is taught integrally as part of the Knowledge and Understanding of the World in the EYFS curriculum. Through play and discussion, our children are encouraged to make observations, ask questions and develop inquisitiveness about the world.

KS1 and KS2 – where possible, science is linked to our class topics and is often influenced by our local environment. With a particular focus on skills-based learning, our children are encouraged to develop into young scientific thinkers by:

- asking questions and exploring answers
- carrying out tests and enquiries
- solving scientific problems
- making simple and more complex observations
- making comparisons and observing differences
- recording, measuring, reporting and presenting conclusions

Resources

A variety of scientific resources and equipment, as well as ICT (including photographs and videos) are used to enhance learning across the whole school. We frequently involve the children in 'real' scientific activities and our

local environment, such as the WWT and the school's wildlife area and pond, are used to enhance scientific experiences.

Assessment

Teachers assess children's knowledge and understanding of science topics by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. Formative assessment is on going throughout the year and teachers assess whether children are working at, above or below age related expectations. Progress and attainment is reported to parents through parent consultations and end of year reports.

Marking

Much of the work in science lessons may be of a practical or oral nature, therefore the recording of work may take varied forms, as will the marking. Where appropriate, pupils are asked to self-assess or peer-assess their own or other's work. Marking promotes thinking and questioning and where possible, focuses on future targets.

Homework, Educational visits and Challenges

Although not compulsory, science homework may sometimes be given to children from time to time in the form of fun-based enquiry work or experiments to complement their learning in class.

One-off science, technology and engineering 'challenges' take place throughout the year to encourage children to think and work scientifically, creatively and innovatively with different aged peers.

We have excellent links with local secondary schools and businesses and our KS2 children are regularly involved in science activities.

Also see:

Health and Safety Policy
Curriculum Policy
Teaching and Learning Policy
Feedback and Marking Policy
Early Years Policy