



Slimbridge Primary School Policy
Approved: June 2020
To review: Annually

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 enrich 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. At UKS2, work is assessed using national exemplification documents to ensure consistency with national standards. Progress and attainment is reported to parents through parent consultations and end of year reports. The teaching of science is monitored by the head teacher, the subject leader and the governors.

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 enquiry-based challenges and investigations to complement their learning in class.

STEM challenges take place throughout the year to encourage children to not only think like scientists, but encourage them to be creative and innovative too. Our STEM challenges are inclusive of all children, and we promote collaborative working across classes.

We have links with local secondary schools who share resources, training and expertise with our school. Children are often encouraged to participate in challenges with other local schools and Y12 students are invited to share their knowledge and help create memorable learning experiences.

Also see:

Health and Safety Policy

Curriculum Policy

Teaching and Learning Policy

Feedback and Marking Policy

Early Years Policy