



Oakhurst Community First and Nursery School

Science policy

Date of Policy – December 2020



This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Science at Oakhurst First and Nursery School.

Philosophy

The national curriculum for science aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them
- are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future

At Oakhurst we believe that science is about children developing a sense of enquiry and extending their knowledge and understanding of the world around them. We believe science encompasses the acquisition of knowledge, concepts, skills and positive attitudes. We aim to provide an exciting and broad, scientific curriculum that develops scientific vocabulary and empowers children to ask scientific questions, build arguments and explain concepts confidently.

Aims

At Oakhurst Community First and Nursery School, our aims are:

- To build on children's natural curiosity and develop enquiry through asking scientific questions
- Developing use and understanding of scientific vocabulary
- To develop scientific skills and understanding of the key concepts which lead to pupils to work as scientists.
- To develop an awareness of health and safety issues relating to the activities that the pupils undertake.
- To recognise the cross curricular nature of science and to enhance the curriculum through links with other curriculum areas, where these links are appropriate.
- To build children's self-confidence, to enable them to work independently and develop their communication skills to enable them to work co-operatively with others.

Teaching and learning

At Oakhurst First and Nursery School we make science an enjoyable learning experience and provide a variety of experiences and opportunities within each year group.

Children are given opportunities to develop the following skills:

- Raising questions
- Predicting,
- fair testing
- Selecting / using equipment
- Observing
- Measuring
- Recording
- Recognising / explaining patterns
- Communicating findings
- Evaluating

To ensure that all these areas are being covered, we teach Science following National Curriculum guidelines.

Safety

Learning to work safely is an important aspect of learning about science and safety should be emphasised from the earliest stages. Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants will check equipment regularly and report any damage, taking defective equipment out of action. A risk assessment will be carried out for practical activities involving domestic chemicals, heating things, working with living organisms and using sharp instruments. Any perceived hazards will be identified and assessed for risk.

Inclusion

Planning and delivery will take into account the needs of all children, aiming to ensure no one falls behind. All children have equal access to the science curriculum and its associated practical activities. We are responsible for ensuring that all children, irrespective of gender, learning ability, physical disability, ethnicity and social circumstances, have access to the whole curriculum and make the greatest possible progress.

Assessment

On-going assessments take place to ensure the children are acquiring the knowledge, skills and vocabulary appropriate to their year group (see whole school Science Curriculum Overview)

Implementation and Monitoring

The Governors and the Head teacher have a responsibility to ensure this policy is implemented and monitored.



Signed by Mrs Ann Clark

Adopted by Governing Body on December 2020