

Science Policy

Meir Heath Academy



Approved by:
Mrs M Southern

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**Next review due
by:** September 2022

What is Science?

- Science is a body of knowledge which is built up through the experimental testing of ideas and which is organised in a way that makes it easy to use. Science is also a methodology, a practical way of finding reliable answers to questions we may ask about the world around us. The emphasis surrounding the environmental and ecological issues which are prevalent now making the teaching and learning of science essential.

Aims

At Meir Heath Academy we aim to enable all pupils to:

- Retain and develop their natural sense of curiosity about the world around them.
- Create an enthusiasm for all areas of science.
- Develop a set of attitudes which promote scientific ways of thinking, perseverance, objectivity and the recognition of the importance of teamwork.
- Understand the nature of 'scientific method' involving: meticulous observation, the making and testing of hypotheses, the design of fair and controlled experiments, the drawing of meaningful conclusions through critical reasoning and evaluation of evidence.
- Be effective communicators of scientific ideas, facts and data.
- Build up a body of scientific knowledge and understanding which will serve as a foundation for further enquiry.

TIME ALLOCATION

- Every pupil within the school will receive weekly teaching of science ensuring all objectives from the curriculum are covered to the highest standard.

THE ROLE OF THE SCIENCE COORDINATOR

The Science coordinator will:

- Take the lead in policy development and the production of schemes of work, (Switched On Science), designed to ensure progression and continuity throughout the school;
- Support colleagues and give help, when required, in their implementation of the scheme of work;
- Monitor progress in science and advise the principal on any action required;
- Oversee the assessment of science and the procedures for reporting to parents on pupils' progress in this area of the curriculum;
- Take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of central resources for science;
- Keep up-to-date with developments in science education and brief colleagues

- as necessary;
- Identify staff development needs and arrange appropriate INSET.

THE ROLE OF THE CLASS TEACHER

It is the responsibility of every class teacher:

- To teach science, within the legal guidelines and the school's science policy and scheme of work, to every child in his/her class.
- To record pupil's progress in the subject.
- To prepare reports to parents on pupils' progress.
- To seek advice where necessary from the science coordinator.

OUTLINE OF TEACHING STRATEGIES TO BE ADOPTED

All pupils will gain a variety of learning experiences through a combination of whole class work, group work and individual activities. Activities that encourage Scientific Enquiry will be central to all lessons in the subject.

ASSESSMENT OF SCIENCE

Effective assessment:

- Is usually done while a task is being carried out through the discussion with children and teacher.
- Aims to help children learn by encouraging them to think critically about what they have achieved.
- All staff to complete the Switched on Science knowledge based unit assessments, at the end of each unit. This is to be fixed into Science books, at the end of each unit of work.
- All staff to use and update the science progression grids, half-termly and to use these to inform attainment at data entry points and to identify next steps for teaching and learning, as part of assessment for learning.

PLANNING AND MONITORING

All teachers will:

- Plan lessons in accordance with the sequence and time-scale indicated in the scheme of work; (Switched on Science).
- Keep a record of work covered and adaptations which have to be made in light of pupils' progress and other factors influencing school life;

- Save all flipchart planning to the Staff Share area and adapt when needed.
- Make any necessary adaptations to their work in accordance with the advice given by the science coordinator.
- Teachers will ensure that, at the beginning of each new topic, a knowledge organiser, with the key lesson objectives/ key vocabulary and questions, is fixed into Science books.
- Staff will record evidence of children working scientifically, through practical enquiry based tasks in the following ways – EYFS Floor Books, Y1 – Y6 iPads.