

*Kirkstall St Stephen's  
C of E Primary School*



*Science Policy*

*May 2024*

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children, and expects our staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

## Kirkstall St Stephen's C of E Primary School

### KSS School Vision:

We are cherished, we are challenged, we are children of God.

- We are **cherished** – we aim to create a caring environment where all children and staff feel welcome, valued, supported and respected.
- We are **challenged**- through a stimulating and challenging learning environment, where achievements are recognised but it is also safe to fail, increasing our resilience.
- We are **children of God** – we recognise the value of each and every individual, encouraging every-one's unique spiritual development and potential.

In the light of the Mission Statement, Inclusion and Assessment Policies and intent, this is the policy statement for the delivery of Science at Kirkstall St Stephen's Primary School.

### Science Intent Statement

*Every child who leaves KSS will have developed their skills as scientists through a meaningful enriching curriculum. It fosters a healthy curiosity about our universe, promotes respect and pupils will learn how to cherish the world we live in. We deliver the national curriculum objectives and enhance learning further developing awe and wonder through additional investigations and a dedicated Science week annually. Our pupils are challenged to think for themselves, making decisions and relevant observations about what they have done and seen posing interesting questions to investigate.*

At Kirkstall St Stephen's our curriculum is taught through focusing on our five core principles:

- We ask questions
- We explore and investigate
- We think scientifically
- We record scientifically
- We link learning to real life

Using this approach, we aim to develop a lifelong interest in the subject with solid foundations to build upon in the future.

### Teaching and Learning

#### Early Years Foundation Stage

In Foundation Stage, the children are encouraged to Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants. They learn similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class. They also understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

This is delivered through a topic-based approach, building on pupil's interests. They are encouraged to play, explore and ask questions.

#### Key Stage 1 and 2

Kirkstall St Stephen's Primary School follows the National Curriculum for Science across Key stage 1 and 2.

This is mapped out as per the whole school Science overview with more detail in the knowledge organisers. There is a progression of skills document which sits alongside these, detailing the smaller steps in knowledge, skills and vocabulary.

Each child in Key Stage 1 and 2 will have their own Science books to record their work in as well as to reflect and recap on prior knowledge referring to their learning journey checklists and knowledge organisers. Science should be taught each half term. In most cases, this will be delivered through a lesson a week, however there may be units of work which lend themselves to studying as a block over consecutive days. Additionally, in Spring 1, the whole school takes part in a 'Science Week' where children focus on the skills of 'Plan, Do, Record, Review' which reinforces the working Scientifically element of the National Curriculum.

### **Assessment and Monitoring**

Ongoing, formative assessment is carried out after each lesson by the pupils and staff, and recorded in their learning journey checklist (kept in books). This is used to provide evidence as to whether a child is 'on track' or 'working towards' in this unit of work. Additionally, one skill is assessed termly from Plan, Do, Record, Review, this is also detailed on the learning journey checklist. This assessment allows class teachers and subject leaders to understand how individual children, and cohorts of pupils are progressing against the National Curriculum and in their skills.

Parents will be kept informed of their child's progress by

- Receiving end of year reports in which progress and achievements are stated.
- Attend parent's evenings where targets and progress are discussed
- Parents may ask teachers to see their pupils work or discuss their achievements in school.

### **Equal Opportunities and inclusion of all children.**

Science will be taught using the principles of equality, as it is the philosophy of the school that this leads to good teaching. We believe that it is our responsibility to encourage equal opportunity in all areas of Science. We look for opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom and in the local environment as much as possible for all pupils. In line with our Equal Opportunities Policy we are committed to providing a teaching environment conducive to learning. Each child is valued, respected and challenged regardless of race, gender, religion, social background, culture or disability.

We recognise that in all classes, children have a wide range of abilities, and we seek to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this by:

- Setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty, some children not completing all tasks;
- Providing resources of different complexity, depending on the ability of the child;
- Using teaching assistants to support children individually or in groups.

### **The role of Science subject lead**

The role of the Science subject lead is to monitor and evaluate the teaching of Science across school by completing the following:

- Conduct 'Learning Walks' and 'Book Looks' with positive feedback and to highlight areas of development for the subject.
- Ensure the Science Long Term Plan and Progression of Skills document stays up to date and relevant so teachers can plan accordingly.
- Ensure Science displays are updated regularly within each classroom- with relevant vocabulary.
- Complete necessary and appropriate CPD opportunities,
- Be responsible for Science resources across school.
- To gather opinions of pupils (pupil voice) on the subject and what they have learnt.
- Ensure opportunities are created for enrichment in the children's learning of Science