



Science Policy

Agreed January 2021
To Be Reviewed January 2024

Science Policy

Vision

Science at Castle Hill Infant School stimulates and excites children's curiosity about phenomena and events in the world around them, and the environment in which they live. Science links practical experience with ideas. It develops children's observational, investigative and communication skills through first-hand experience and secondary sources such as books and ICT.

Aims

Science at Castle Hill Infant School aims to ensure children:

- Grow in confidence so that they are able to express their ideas through using scientific language
- Begin to make sense of their observations and investigations by suggesting possible explanations
- Communicate their knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways
- Formulate and share ideas and begin to work out ways of testing them
- Recognise hazards and risks when working with living things and materials
- Make simple and accurate measurements
- Develop an enthusiasm and fascination about science itself
- Become curious about their environment
- Develop respect for the environment and living things

Planning

Science in Key Stage 1 is delivered within an integrated curriculum. The scheme of work is based on the National Curriculum. Science is less formal in Early Years and is included in the Early Learning Goal, Understanding the World; The World. Children are encouraged to observe and investigate the world around them during their self-initiated play.

Problem Solving and Thinking Skills

Many aspects of science contribute to the development of thinking skills and opportunities will be given to develop the following different thinking skills:

- **Information-processing skills:** enables children to locate and collect relevant information to sort, classify, sequence and analyse relationships
- **Reasoning skills:** enables children to give reasons and opinions, to draw inferences and make deductions, to use precise language to explain what they think and to make a judgement informed by reasons and evidence
- **Enquiry skills:** enable children to ask relevant questions, to pose and define problems, to plan what to do and ways to research, to predict outcomes and to test conclusions and improve ideas
- **Creative thinking skills:** enable children to generate and extend ideas, to suggest hypotheses, to apply imagination and to look for alternative innovative outcomes
- **Evaluation skills:** enables children to evaluate information, to judge the value of what they read, hear and do and to have confidence in their judgements

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Assessments are made by each individual teacher against the objectives identified and the criteria for each relevant level. Statements for the appropriate levels in year one and two are stated on each lesson plan. Each area of science has a knowledge based assessment as well as an enquiry assessment. In the Foundation Stage, assessment is linked to the Early Learning Goal 'Understanding the World' and is recorded in the Foundation Stage Profile. The science coordinator is always available to offer advice if requested. All parents of year one and two children receive an annual written report on which there is a summary of their child's effort and progress in science over the year. At the end of Key Stage 1 each pupil's level of achievement is levelled against national standards included as part of their annual written report. For science, this is teacher assessment only.

Health and Safety

Children should always be involved in the hazards and safety procedures within science lessons. It is the role of the science coordinator to advise and inform staff about issues relating to health and safety. All staff have been provided with the health and safety leaflets which link to planned lessons. (See Primary Science Safety Monitoring Schedule - risk assessment)

Resources

Resources for Key Stage 1 science are stored in labelled boxes within the science cupboard in class 6. Early Years have their own resources which are stored within the early years setting. The science coordinator orders science equipment in consultation with staff.

Linked Policies:

- SEN Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Whole School Food Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Single Equality Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Curriculum Policy