



**DARWEN
ST JAMES**

SCIENCE



**Nurturing ambition
through a living faith
in Science at Darwen
St James' is...**



Nurture

At Darwen St James', we view science as an essential doorway to discovering and understanding the world around us. As our world is so diverse and interconnected, we feel it is essential to nurture a natural curiosity about how it works, instilling a deep respect for all living things. From their earliest years, children are encouraged to explore, question, and appreciate the wonders of the world around them. We are also sensitive to the fact that children come to us with different opportunities to experience the natural world. We actively bridge this gap by providing a rich, hands-on scientific environment alongside outdoor learning, ensuring every child has the opportunity to explore, thrive, and grow.

Ambition

To address historic standard gaps in primary science, we have driven our ambition forward by embedding rigorous scientific enquiry across every single year group. This ensures children build strong practical, analytical, and critical-thinking skills from an early age. From Key Stage 1 onwards, pupils demonstrate their ambition during dedicated, hands-on science lessons where they actively test ideas, gather evidence, and draw meaningful conclusions. Through tailored practical investigation, children develop the tools to confidently showcase their ambition, taking ownership of their learning and applying scientific discovery both in the classroom and the world around them.

Faith

Our Christian faith and science are closely linked. Science provides a meaningful opportunity to explore and appreciate the world God created, marvel at His achievements, and discover practical ways to fulfill our duty of stewardship over the environment. Through their scientific journey, pupils live out our whole-school values—demonstrating perseverance and courage when investigating complex ideas, and drawing on hope, love, and friendship as they collaborate to care for one another and protect the world around them.

Citizens

Our Christian faith and science are closely linked. Science provides a meaningful opportunity to explore and appreciate the world God created, marvel at His achievements, and discover practical ways to fulfill our duty of stewardship over the environment. Through their scientific journey, pupils live out our whole-school values—demonstrating **perseverance** and **courage** when investigating complex ideas, and drawing on **hope, love**, and **friendship** as they collaborate to care for one another and protect the world around them.

Curriculum Intent, Implementation & Impact Statement



Intent

At Darwen St James, we aim to provide a rich, varied and purposeful curriculum rooted in our core school values, recognising the essential importance of Science in every aspect of daily life. By giving the teaching and learning of Science the prominence it requires, we aim to increase pupils' knowledge and understanding of our world whilst developing their enquiry skills. Through this approach, we nurture each child's natural curiosity, encourage respect for living organisms and the physical environment, and provide regular opportunities for the critical evaluation of evidence. Ultimately, we deliver a well-planned, child-led Science curriculum that fosters meaningful learning and skill acquisition, enabling children to become confident, enquiry-based learners.

Implementation

Teachers will possess robust subject knowledge and receive ongoing support to maintain and develop this through detailed topic information, targeted training, observation of best practice, and engagement with relevant research. Science is taught as a discrete subject each week, allocation being 1 ½ hours in Key Stage 1 and 2 hours in Key Stage 2, while the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) integrates scientific learning through the EYFS framework and continuous provision. Lessons feature the explicit teaching of key vocabulary at the outset, embed retrieval practice to revisit knowledge and skills over time, and adopt a consistent Growth Mindset approach. Teachers ensure learning is accessible to all by tailoring instruction to their pupils' individual needs, incorporating meaningful writing opportunities linked to English schemes where appropriate, and forging cross-curricular links alongside child-led learning, hands-on activities, and educational trips that make the subject engaging and enjoyable.

To ensure high-quality delivery, the Science curriculum is structured sequentially, allowing knowledge and skills to build in a logical and progressive order while encouraging pupils to reflect on their prior learning. The Science subject leader plays a pivotal role in driving the subject forward by supporting colleagues with planning, resourcing, and pedagogy. Furthermore, the subject leader regularly attends network meetings and external training to remain up to date with subject developments, disseminating key updates to staff and continually refining the curriculum through classroom monitoring, staff and pupil feedback, and the analysis of end-of-unit writing assessments.

Impact

The impact of our Science curriculum is evaluated through end-of-topic teacher assessments at the end of each full term, with most children achieving age-related expectations in Science by the conclusion of their cohort year. Pupils retain key scientific knowledge within a real-life context, including relevant vocabulary and its meaning. Furthermore, children are empowered to question ideas, reflect on their knowledge, and work collaboratively and practically to investigate and experiment. They develop the ability to explain their processes and reason scientifically, leaving them with robust subject knowledge in Science that thoroughly prepares them for the next stage in their education.