

Science Policy

Horwich Parish CE Primary School



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*Our vision is to be a school where everyone can achieve and “let their light shine” both individually and collectively as a community.
Learning to love each other as Jesus loved us, respecting each other and growing into the people God has called us to be.*

Contents

Section		Page
1	Aims and Objectives	3
2	Teaching and Learning Style	3
3	Science Curriculum Planning	4
4	Foundation Stage	4
5	The Contribution of Science to Teaching in Other Curriculum Areas	4
6	Teaching Science to Children with Special Needs	5
7	Assessment and Recording	5
8	Resources	5
9	Monitoring and Review	6

1. Aims and Objectives

Science at Horwich Parish aims to teach our children the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to question and understand concepts and phenomena that occur in the world around them and equips them with the motivation to seek explanations for these. Children learn the skills required for scientific enquiry and they will begin to appreciate the way science will affect their future on a personal, national and global level.

The aims of science are to enable children to:

- Ask and answer scientific questions.
- Plan and carry out fair scientific investigations, using equipment including computers.
- Know and understand the life processes of living things.
- Know and understand the physical processes of materials, electricity, light, sound and natural forces.
- Know about materials and their properties.
- Evaluate evidence and present their conclusions clearly and accurately.

2. Teaching and Learning Style

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in science lessons. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding. We do this through a mixture of whole-class teaching and individual/group activities. Teachers encourage the children to ask as well as answer scientific questions. The children have the opportunity to use a variety of secondary sources of information, where it will enhance learning as well as gaining first hand experiences, for example, the use of books, photographs, graphs, diagrams, models and ICT.

Horwich Parish also has close links with Rivington & Blackrod High School and Albany Academy who provide science activities for the children across all age ranges. This is done in a number of ways either by sending their pupils to the school to teach a specific science lesson or by our pupils going there.

We recognise the fact that we have children of differing scientific ability in all our classes and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- Setting common tasks that are open-ended and can have a variety of responses.
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty (we do not expect all children to complete all tasks).
- Grouping children by ability and setting different tasks for each group.
- Providing a range of challenges with different resources.
- Using additional adults to support the work of individual children or small groups.
- Incorporating high order questions that apply to scientific thinking to extend the most able children in science.

3. Science Curriculum Planning

The National Curriculum is used as the basis of curriculum planning alongside the Science skills progression and knowledge document. Teachers aim to ensure that all children are able to achieve the objectives of the national curriculum.

We have planned the topics in science so that they build upon prior learning. We ensure that there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit and we also build progression into the science scheme of work, so that the children are increasingly challenged as they progress through the school. More able learners are identified and throughout the year, enrichment opportunities are offered, often in partnership with other local schools.

4. Foundation Stage

We teach science in the Foundation stage as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. It comes under Understanding the World in the EYFS. Children must be supported in developing the knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. Their learning must be supported through offering opportunities for them to use a range of tools safely; encounter creatures, people, plants and objects in their natural environments and in real-life situations; undertake practical 'experiments'; and work with a range of materials.

5. The Contribution of Science to Teaching in Other Curriculum Areas

English

Science contributes significantly to the teaching of English at Horwich Parish by actively promoting the skills of thinking, reading, writing, speaking and listening. The children develop oral skills in science lessons through discussions and through recounting their observations of scientific experiments. They develop their writing skills through writing reports and projects and by recording information.

Mathematics

Science contributes to the teaching of mathematics in a number of ways. The children use weights and measures and learn to use and apply number skills. Through working on investigations, they learn to estimate and predict. They develop the skills of accurate observation and recording of events. They use numbers in many of their answers and conclusions.

Computing

Children use computing in science lessons where appropriate. They use it to support their work in science by learning how to find, select, and analyse information on the internet. Children use computers to record, present and interpret data and to review, modify and evaluate their work and improve its presentation.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship

Science makes a significant contribution to the teaching of personal, social and health education. This is mainly in two areas. Firstly, the subject matter lends itself to raising matters of citizenship and social welfare and healthy eating and exercise. Secondly, children benefit from the nature of the subject in that it gives them opportunities to take part in debates and discussions. Science promotes the concept of positive citizenship.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Science teaching offers children many opportunities to examine some of the fundamental questions in life, for example, the evolution of living things and how the world was created. Through many of the amazing processes that affect living things, children develop a sense of awe and wonder regarding the nature of our world. Science raises many social and moral questions. Through the teaching of science, children have the opportunity to discuss, for example, the effects of pollution and the moral questions involved in this issue. We give them the chance to reflect on the way people care for the planet and how science can contribute to the way we manage the Earth's resources. Science teaches children about the reasons why people are different and, by developing the children's knowledge and understanding of physical and environmental factors, it promotes respect for other people.

6. Teaching Science to Children with Special Needs

We teach science to all children, whatever their ability. Science forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all children. Through our science teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Assessment against the National Curriculum allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels.

7. Assessment and Recording

We assess children's work in science through concept maps, observations, assessment activities and marking. These assessments inform the class teacher's planning for future lessons. At the start of a unit of work, the children complete a concept map which they then add to at the end of the unit of work. Each half term a WS skill is assessed using the TAPS investigations linked to the NC units of work.

8. Resources

We have a range of resources to support the teaching of Science across the school and all our resources are kept in the science cupboard. We plan to work with other local schools to share resources.

As applicable, Pupil Premium funding may be made available to ensure that children who are in receipt of this funding and who may normally miss out on opportunities to make progress are supported to do so.

9. Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the Science Subject Leader, the Headteacher and Governors to monitor the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in science. The Science Subject Co-ordinator is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of science, for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. An action plan is written and reviewed annually. The Science Subject Co-ordinator helps with the moderation of work samples to ensure consistency and carries out monitoring activities. We are working with a cluster of schools to share ideas and look at how we moderate our science books.