



Oxley Park Academy

Science Policy

Rationale

Science makes an increasing contribution to all aspects of life. Children are naturally fascinated by everything in the world around them and science makes a valuable contribution to their understanding of that world. At Oxley Park we teach Science knowledge and skills as part of a wider area of 'Knowledge and Understanding of the World'.

At Oxley Park Academy we believe that children learn by interacting with things in their world. They pick up clues about what they see, touch, smell, taste and hear in order to make sense of it all and come to conclusions which match up with all the experiences they have had. Through the teaching of Science, children will develop lively enquiring minds and the ability to question and hence fulfill their desire to understand the world in which they live.

Aims

We aim for our children to:

- Develop an interest and curiosity in the world around them.
- Develop scientific knowledge and understanding.
- Participate in scientific enquiry through asking questions and carrying out investigations.
- Understand how scientific concepts relate to their everyday lives.
- Communicate scientific knowledge in oral written and visual forms using appropriate vocabulary and techniques.
- Use equipment and materials appropriately and safely.

Planning

The Science curriculum in school will be based on the requirements of the National and Early Years Foundation stage Curriculums. As a school we have chosen to follow the Creative Curriculum; which extends the principles of the Foundation throughout the school. Through half-termly creative cross-curricular topics this curriculum develops a progression of skills from foundation to year 6. The 'Curriculum Overview' content ensures that the full National Curriculum coverage is maintained through the delivery of the thematic approach. The planning is monitored by the Subject Manager on a termly basis to ensure continuity, progression and consistency throughout the school.

Teaching and Learning

A range of styles of teaching is necessary for the teaching Science. Approaches need to be related to the topic itself and to the abilities, learning styles and experiences of pupils.

As detailed in our “Oxley Park Academy Policy for Learning And Teaching”, teaching will be differentiated to meet individual needs and will include opportunities for;

- Teacher exposition
- Discussion techniques (pupil/pupil and pupil/teacher)
- Appropriate practical work
- Consolidation and practice of fundamental skills and routines
- Use of ICT, museum resources and outside visits
- First-hand experience
- Investigation work
- Class work, group work, individual work
- Recording and observation
- Provision of different media and materials to address variety in learning styles

Equal Opportunities & Inclusion

At Oxley Park Academy we are committed to equality of opportunity and inclusion as detailed in our school policy. We have a responsibility to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum for all our pupils which sets suitable learning challenges, giving every pupil the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible. This includes pupils whose attainments fall significantly below the expected levels and also those whose attainments significantly exceed those expected.

All staff will have high expectations of all pupils and provide opportunities for everyone to achieve, including boys and girls, pupils with special educational needs, pupils with disabilities, pupils from all social and cultural backgrounds, pupils of different ethnic groups including travelers, refugees and asylum seekers, and those from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Teachers should be aware that pupils bring to school different experiences, interests and strengths, which influence the way in which they learn.

Role of the Subject Leader

The role of the Subject Leader is to:

- Purchase, organize and maintain teaching resources
- Manage a delegated budget and keep spending within it
- Encourage and assist in training
- Provide guidance and support in implementing schemes of work
- Co-ordinate recording and presentation throughout the school after consultation with colleagues
- Advise the Senior Leadership Team of action required (eg resources, standards, etc)
- Encourage ways of involving parents in their child's learning
- Provide support for all who teach Science and so improve the quality and continuity of Science teaching and learning throughout the school.
- Monitor planning to ensure teaching and learning is appropriately differentiated and achieves expected progression.

Resources

The Subject Leader for Science has an inventory of all equipment required.
General Science resources are stored in the Key Stage stores.
Thematic boxes are stored in the Key Stage 1 and 2 cupboards

Health and safety

At all times due care and consideration is given to health & safety as outlined in our Health & Safety policy

Review date: Summer 2014

Next review date: Summer 2016