



Science at St Mary's

Intent

At St Mary's Primary School, we aim to provide a high-quality, inclusive science education that fosters curiosity, develops scientific thinking, and equips pupils with the knowledge and skills to understand the world around them. Our science curriculum is rooted in the English Primary School National Curriculum and follows the Plymouth Science scheme of work, ensuring a broad and balanced approach to teaching and learning. Our goal is for every child, regardless of their background or ability, to become confident, inquisitive, and independent learners with a deep understanding of science.

We prioritize a curriculum that promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion. By highlighting the scientific achievements of underrepresented groups, we encourage all children to see science as a field where they can succeed, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or background. We recognize the value of every child's potential and aim to provide an environment where they feel confident and motivated to engage with science.

Our offer of Forest School sessions enhances the science curriculum by providing hands-on, outdoor learning experiences that encourage exploration, problem-solving, and practical application of scientific concepts. These sessions are an essential part of our holistic approach to teaching science, enabling children to connect with nature while developing essential scientific skills.

Implementation

Our science curriculum is designed to be progressive, ensuring that knowledge, understanding, and skills build year on year. The curriculum follows the Plymouth Science scheme of work, providing a structured yet flexible framework that allows teachers to cater to the needs of all learners. Each unit of work is carefully planned to cover key areas of science.. Pupils are encouraged to work scientifically, developing the ability to investigate, experiment, observe, and analyse in practical and meaningful contexts.

Working scientifically is embedded throughout our curriculum. In every lesson, pupils engage in hands-on investigations, critical thinking, and problem-solving activities. They are given opportunities to ask questions, make predictions, and test their ideas, enabling them to develop the skills necessary for scientific inquiry. We also ensure that scientific vocabulary is introduced and reinforced, enabling pupils to communicate their understanding effectively.

Our Forest School sessions play a vital role in bringing science to life. These outdoor learning opportunities complement and extend classroom-based science lessons, allowing children to immerse themselves in the natural environment and discover the science all around for themselves. Children from all classes participate in Forest School sessions, where they have



the opportunity to explore the natural world, investigate scientific phenomena, and develop their understanding of scientific concepts through hands-on experiences.

We are committed to supporting SEND pupils in all aspects of the science curriculum. Teachers adapt their teaching to meet the needs of individual children, using a range of strategies such as scaffolded tasks, visual aids, and one-to-one support. We aim to make science an inclusive subject for all, ensuring that every child can access and succeed in the learning process.

Impact

The impact of our science curriculum will be evident in the scientific knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm our pupils develop over time. By the end of their time at St Mary's Primary School, pupils will have a solid understanding of scientific concepts and will be confident in using scientific methods to explore and answer questions about the world around them. They will have developed critical thinking skills and be able to apply their learning to solve problems in a variety of contexts.

We will assess the impact of our science curriculum through regular assessments, pupil feedback, and teacher observations. Our pupils will demonstrate:

- A strong understanding of key scientific concepts across all areas of science.
- The ability to work scientifically, using inquiry and investigation to explore ideas and test hypotheses.
- Improved communication skills, including the ability to explain scientific ideas and findings using appropriate vocabulary.
- A sense of curiosity and a love of learning, demonstrated through their enthusiasm for science and their engagement with both classroom and outdoor learning experiences.
- Increased access and engagement with the science curriculum.
- A growing awareness of the diversity of scientific achievement, with an understanding of the contributions made by individuals from underrepresented groups in science.

Our approach to teaching science ensures that all children, regardless of their background or ability, are provided with the tools and opportunities to succeed. We are committed to continuously reviewing and improving our practice to ensure that every pupil at St Mary's Primary School achieves their full potential in science. Through our curriculum, we aim to inspire the next generation of scientists, critical thinkers, and problem solvers.

This approach ensures that our science curriculum promotes personal development, inclusion, and a culture of high expectations for all pupils. We will continue to monitor progress, ensuring that our curriculum remains dynamic, engaging, and accessible to every child.