



INSPIRE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

SCIENCE POLICY

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INSPIRE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Science Policy

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 Science teaches an understanding of natural phenomena. It aims to stimulate a child's curiosity in finding out why things happen in the way they do. It teaches methods of enquiry and investigation to stimulate creative thought. Children learn to ask scientific questions whilst developing a scientific approach to problems and begin to appreciate the way science will affect their future on a personal, national, and global level.

1.2 The aims of science are to enable children to:

- ask and answer scientific questions;
- plan and carry out scientific investigations, using equipment, including computers, correctly;
- 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 the nature of the solar system, including the earth;
- evaluate evidence and present their conclusions clearly and accurately;
- be open-minded, self-critical, persevere and take responsibility;
- foster concern and appreciation of, our environment;
- build children's self-confidence to enable them to work independently and develop their social skills to enable them to work co-operatively with others;
- help children acquire a progressive understanding of scientific concepts related to everyday experiences;
- provide an enjoyable experience of Science.

2 Teaching and learning style

2.1 At Inspire Multi Academy Trust we use a variety of learning styles. Our principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills, and understanding. Sometimes we do this through whole-class teaching, while at other times we engage the children in an enquiry-based research activity. We encourage the children to ask, as well as answer, scientific questions. They have the opportunity to use a variety of data, such as statistics, graphs, pictures, and photographs. They use ICT in science lessons where it enhances their learning. They take part in role-play and discussions and they present reports to the rest of the class. They engage in a wide variety of problem-solving activities. Wherever possible, we involve the pupils in 'real' scientific activities, for example, researching a local environmental problem or carrying out a practical experiment and analysing the results.

2.2 We recognise that there are children of widely different scientific abilities in all classes and we ensure that 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 which 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 ability group;

- providing resources of different complexity, matched to the ability of the child;
- in some classes, classroom assistants to support the work of individual children or groups of children when .

3 Science curriculum planning

3.1 Our Trust has a creative approach to the curriculum as the basis for its planning. The national scheme has been adapted to the local circumstances of the Trust in that we make use of the local environment in our fieldwork.

3.2 We carry out our curriculum planning in science in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term). The long-term plan maps the scientific topics studied in each term during the key stage. The science subject leader works this out in conjunction with teaching colleagues in each year group. In some cases we combine the scientific study with work in other subject areas; at other times the children study science as a discrete subject.

3.3 Our medium-term plans, which we have adopted from the national scheme, give details of each unit of work for each term. The science subject leader is responsible for keeping and reviewing these plans. In this way we ensure complete coverage of the National Curriculum but do not have to repeat topics.

3.4 The class teacher is responsible for completing the daily lesson plans for each lesson (short-term plans). These plans list the specific learning objectives of each lesson. The class teacher keeps these individual plans, and s/he and the science subject leader often discuss them on an informal basis.

3.5 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 move up through the Trust.

4 Foundation Stage

4.1 We teach science in reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the scientific aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Science makes a significant contribution to the objective in the ELGs of developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world, e.g. through investigating what floats and what sinks when placed in water.

5 The contribution of science to teaching in other curriculum areas

5.1 English

Science contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our Trust by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Some of the texts that the children study in the English are of a scientific nature. The children develop oral skills in science lessons through discussions (for example of the environment) and

through recounting/reporting their observations of scientific experiments. They develop their writing skills through writing reports and projects and by recording information.

5.2 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. 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.

5.3 Information and communication technology (ICT)

Children use ICT 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 and on CD-ROMs. Children use ICT to record, present and interpret data and to review, modify and evaluate their work and improve its presentation.

5.4 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. For example, children may study the way people recycle material and how environments are changed for better or worse. 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.

5.5 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 has evolved. 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 smoking 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

6.1 We teach science to all children, whatever their ability. Science forms part of the Trust curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all children. We provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. Our work in science takes into account the targets set in the children's Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

7 Assessment and recording

We assess children's work in science by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher marks the work and comments as necessary. At the end of a unit of work, the class teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to the QCA end of unit expectations. Names of children who have achieved beyond the expectations or not made as much progress are noted.

7.2 Children take the national tests in science at the end of Key Stage 2. Teachers make an assessment of the children's work in science at the end of Key Stage 1. We report the results of these tests to parents along with the teacher assessments which we make whilst observing the work of children throughout the year.

7.3 The science subject leader keeps samples of children's work in a portfolio and uses these to demonstrate what the expected level of achievement is in science for each age group in the Trust.

8 Resources

We have sufficient resources for all science teaching units in the Trust which are kept in the science room. There is also a collection of science equipment which the children use to gather weather data. The library contains a good supply of science topic books and we have computer software to support children's individual research.

9 Monitoring and review

9.1 It is the responsibility of the SMT to monitor the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in science. The science subject leader 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 Trust. The science subject leader gives the headteacher a termly annual summary report in which s/he evaluates strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicates areas for further improvement. The science subject leader has specially-allocated time for fulfilling the vital task of reviewing samples of children's work and visiting classes to observe teaching in the subject.

10 Health and safety

10.1 The general teaching requirement for health and safety applies in this subject. (Appendix 1)