Hucknall National C of E Primary School Science Policy September 2025-2026

Life
The condition that distinguishes animals and plants from inorganic matter

Energy
Power derived from the use of physical or chemical resources

Matter
Physical substance which occupies space and possesses rest mass

Being scientific
Investigating in a systematic and methodical way.

Intent

"Science is the language of curiosity"

We intend to provide a broad, ambitious scientific curriculum that develops scientific vocabulary and empowers children to ask scientific questions – this will enable children to make careful observations and decisions based on justifiable reasons. We ensure various, memorable experiences (including experiments and visitors) take place to broaden the children's knowledge – all learning is accessible for all children regardless of their ability or background. Children are encouraged to read in science lessons through online and paper research, science encyclopedias, science papers and books for children to make links across many areas of the curriculum. Maths links are made through science by improving data handling skills as well as being able to develop the recording of scientific experiments. Ultimately, we want children to enjoy learning all areas of science and many topics will be covered on more than one occasion throughout their schooling in order to progress and embed their knowledge.

Aims

Our aims in teaching science include the following:

- To encourage and build upon our children's natural curiosity, stimulating them to ask questions and motivate them to investigate.
- To develop their knowledge and understanding of science, making the concepts we study relevant to their everyday life and giving them opportunities to explore and observe at first hand where possible.
- To teach the children scientific skills and strategies and to develop positive attitudes which encourage them to share response.
- To prepare our children for life in an increasingly scientific and technological world, raising their aspirations and providing them with an enhanced curriculum.

Implementation

Science learning takes place in a variety of ways at Hucknall National Primary. Children are given the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and an enquiring mind. This is done through formal lessons, group activities, individual work, school trips, experiments and curriculum themed days. Children are taught to think scientifically and ask questions. Problem solving activities and investigations are used to engage children in their learning; these activities often have a real life context.

The delivery of science teaching at our school places an emphasis on scientific investigations and practical activities which are based on real world scenarios. Science is taught in weekly lessons and is also delivered through cross curricular links in other subjects. Science lessons are adapted according to children's learning requirements. This ensures all groups of learners can access the curriculum and make progress in their substantive and disciplinary knowledge. Care is taken to ensure progression from the foundation stage and throughout key stages 1 and 2. When topics are revisited another layer of knowledge and skills are added to deepen the children's understanding. As a school we have invested in Developing Experts to support with the delivery and resourcing of Science.

Scientific work is recorded in a variety of ways appropriate to the age of the children and their individual needs in each key stage. This can include teacher observations, photographs, drawings, tables, graphs, written accounts and formal write ups. It is expected that all recorded science work is to be presented to a high standard but not to the detriment of science investigations or the teaching

and learning aspect of the lesson. The balance of practical activity and length of recording tasks is carefully planned to maintain a scientific emphasis.

Assessment for Learning

Pupil work is assessed by direct observation when completing science activities and in discussion with the teacher, as well as on the finished work. Children will also have the opportunity to complete assessment quizzes online using Developing experts, this will support staff in closing the gaps and ensuring knowledge is retained. At the end of each unit children will complete the unit check either collectively or individually. This will give teachers clear data for children's achievements in science which will be tracked on O-track. Children's achievements are shared with parents at Parent Consultations on a termly basis or at parent drop in evenings. Parents have access to children's work and individual dialogue with the class teacher. Parents see science displays and evidence of the children's work through class led assemblies, school presentations and work in their science books.

Cross-curricular links

Curriculum Links Science has many strong links with other subjects as well as constantly reinforcing children's basic skills. It develops many of the skills used in literacy such as reading, writing, speaking and listening. Children enhance their mathematics skills by developing their ability to problem solve, measure, represent and analyse information. Children use ICT whenever appropriate in science lessons. This includes using computers, tablets, cameras and movie creators. It raises matters of citizenship, welfare and provides opportunities for debates and discussions.

Curriculum considerations to SEN.

At Hucknall National Primary school we teach science to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Science forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our science teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. Lessons are structured to give all pupils multiple opportunities to recap on previous learning. This structure is particularly effective in supporting lower attaining pupils and bettering their chances to succeed, as substantive knowledge is reinforced by frequently recalling information through pictures, videos and vocabulary. Our learning outcomes are differentiated to enable pupils to access our lessons at a level that is appropriate for them. Every lesson features a 'challenge task' to support higher attaining pupils. The lesson build tools on Developing Experts allow for background colouring to be changed and teachers can edit both slide content and handouts to make them bespoke to a pupil's individual needs. We strive to adapt and meet the needs of all our pupils.

Health and safety

- Staff members will act in accordance with the school's Health and Safety Policy at all times.
- All pupils will be shown how to correctly use equipment and will be monitored by staff members whilst using equipment.
- All pupils will be made aware of how they are expected to behave, ensuring that they show respect to other people and the environment.
- Pupils are made aware of the personal safety protocols and equipment needed when using different equipment or carrying out different tasks.
- Whole school risk assessment in place to support staff with conducting Science experiments safely.

Science lead responsibilities

Monitoring and Review It is the responsibility of the science subject leader to:
• Monitor the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in science.
• Support colleagues in their teaching, by keeping them informed about current developments in science and providing a strategic lead and direction for science in this school.
• Give the head teacher/governors an annual summary report in which s/he evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in science and indicates areas for further improvement;
• Use specially allocated regular management time to review evidence of the children's work, and to observe science lessons across the school.