



Science Policy

Introduction

This policy reflects the values, ethos and philosophy of Greenside School in relation to the teaching of Science. It provides guidance on, content, planning, teaching and assessment.

The Science Policy is a working document and as such it reflects both the practices that are carried out and those to which the school is striving.

The policy is agreed upon by the whole teaching staff and presented to the Governing Body. The document is available to interested parties.

Rationale

At Greenside School the teaching of Science is primarily used to stimulate and excite pupils' curiosity about events in the world around them and to satisfy this curiosity, with knowledge. We endeavour to link practical experience with ideas, whilst engaging pupils at their own level of development. Science should build on experience, knowledge and understanding that the pupils bring with them from home.

Aims

Throughout all modules pupils will be encouraged to:

- explore the world about them using all their senses
- begin to understand that some things are man made
- interact with other people, plants and animals as necessary conditions for sustaining life
- begin to collect evidence, which excites their curiosity about their environment and the wider world, and so begin to ask questions 'Why?' 'How?' 'What will happen if....?'
- make observations, record and display their findings in different ways
- build on their experiences, knowledge and understanding
- begin to make predictions about things
- begin to understand that one action can cause another reaction
- explore a range of natural and man made procedures
- to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum for Science

Pupils are encouraged to become familiar with, to understand and use appropriate vocabulary linked with each module. Use is made of the local community facilities and the school minibuses enable pupils to work within the wider community. During such visits, opportunities occur for pupils to explore contrasting features to those found in the school environment.

At KS 4 students have an opportunity to use specialist laboratory facilities at Heathcote, The Valley and Barnwell Schools.

Implementation

At Greenside School we have developed a Scheme of Work for the teaching of Science throughout the whole school. The Scheme of Work provides the medium term planning for the content of a two-year rolling programme and includes suggestions for teaching activities.

Equal Opportunities

The Scheme of Work contains differentiated learning objectives. Teachers will provide any other, adaptations, specific teaching techniques and specialist resources required to overcome individual pupils' barriers to learning. The entitlement of all pupils to a full curriculum is acknowledged.

Teaching and Organisation

Individual class teachers are responsible for their own class organisation and teaching style in relation to Science, while at the same time ensuring that these complement and reflect the overall aims and philosophy of the school.

Pupils are given the opportunity to work as a class, as part of a group or as individuals. The learning task or activity, the nature of the element being studied and the resources being used will determine the choice of class organisation. This applies to class-based work and fieldwork activities.

Assessment

Teachers must continually assess pupils' current understanding and knowledge in order to ensure that appropriate learning targets are set.

Reporting

Science must be reported on in the end of year reports

Resources

A range of Science resources is available in school. The majority of resources are stored centrally. Some resources are located within individual classrooms.

ICT enables access to Science in an exciting manner to pupils. Software is available to enhance learning opportunities and to develop skills. These include basic programmes to record findings, word processing facilities, Writing with symbols etc. Access to the Internet and the facilities to send e-mail between classes is being developed to provide further opportunities to extend the pupils' skills in Science.

The subject leader is responsible for the Science resources. The purchase of resources is planned each year in consultation with all teachers.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out in order to enhance the teaching and learning of Science within our school. It is the responsibility of all staff, both teaching and non-teaching to monitor and evaluate the curriculum provision made for Science within the school, so that pupils make the greatest possible progress and enjoy the learning experience. Evaluation will be conducted to the priority given to Science within the School Improvement Plan (SIP). The subject leader is available for advice and is responsible for aspects of monitoring and evaluation.

Review of the policy

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Head and subject leader.