Waltham St Lawrence Primary School

Curriculum Statement for Science

Intent

Science at Waltham St Lawrence seeks to build upon the natural curiosity of our pupils, whether through well planned practical lessons in the classroom or through general topics, to give them good foundations. We seek to give our pupils a thorough knowledge of the units of work they have covered as well as the skill of thinking scientifically. We encourage our pupils to think scientifically by carrying out investigations, drawing conclusions, evaluating their findings and refining their ideas. We encourage perseverance in our pupils in the face of unexpected outcomes.

Our Science curriculum will ensure that the children are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science today and for the future.

Implementation

At WSL we follow a rich and varied Science curriculum with opportunities to classify, research, compare, pattern seek and to make observations over time. In EYFS, Science forms part of the everyday lives of our pupils. During typical activities, children build up an understanding of the world around them and how it works, through hands-on experiences e.g. by working in the sand and water trays. In Key Stages 1 and 2, children study units of work that provide a deeper knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Units of work include Animals and Humans, Electricity, Forces, Earth and Space. We use the outdoor environment and local area to help deliver lessons where appropriate. Our curriculum is progressive. We build children's learning upon the knowledge and skill development of the previous years.

Our curriculum design provides many opportunities for practical lessons. The children are exposed to a wide variety of topics that support their natural curiosity. Our curriculum broadens the children's scientific view of the world around them whilst promoting a love of enquiry and a desire to investigate new things. Children are encouraged to study different scientists including those from cultures that reflect the diverse interests in our school community.

'Working Scientifically' is described separately at the beginning of the programme of study but is always taught through the Science content in the Programme of Study. This provides a clear and structured progression of skills. Pupils should be able to read, spell and understand scientific vocabulary.

Impact

Children are stimulated through engaging lessons that provide a wide range of opportunities for dialogue, collaboration and exploration that develop their natural curiosity. Our in-school visitors and external trips allow children and staff to explore Science within a wider context and to give experiences that may not be available at home. By the end of Year 6, children are equipped with the scientific knowledge and skills to begin secondary school Science with confidence.

Assessment

Assessments of the children's knowledge and understanding will be ongoing throughout the year. We use retrieval activities and practical assessments from Teacher Assessment In Primary Science (TAPS) to help reinforce previous learning and to firmly embed the knowledge in the children's long term memories. Assessment will also include observations, discussions and written outcomes. A summative assessment of whether a child is working at age related expectations plus their attitude to learning Science will be reported to parents/carers in a written annual report.