ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Science Policy

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Review Cycle	Annually
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"Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them"

Psalm 111:2

Science Policy for St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

1. Introduction

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, we believe that science is a vital part of the curriculum that enables students to understand and engage with the world around them. As a Catholic school, we also view the study of science as an opportunity to develop our pupils' sense of responsibility towards God's creation. Through scientific inquiry, we aim to nurture our students' curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking skills, preparing them to be thoughtful, informed, and compassionate citizens of the world.

2. Aims and Objectives

The science curriculum at St. Mary's aims to:

- Provide all children with a strong understanding of scientific concepts and knowledge.
- Develop the skills necessary for scientific inquiry, including observation, questioning, predicting, experimenting, and evaluating.
- Encourage pupils to think scientifically and critically, fostering curiosity about the world and its processes.
- Develop scientific literacy by introducing students to appropriate scientific vocabulary and methods.
- Promote an understanding of the ethical, moral, and social implications of scientific advancements, particularly in relation to caring for God's creation.
- Prepare students for further scientific study, making them confident, competent, and curious learners.

3. Curriculum Overview

Our science curriculum is fully aligned with the National Curriculum and is structured to ensure a progression of skills and knowledge from Year 1 to Year 6. Topics covered include:

- **Key Stage 1**: plants, animals (including humans), materials, seasonal changes, and everyday materials.
- **Key Stage 2**: forces, light and sound, electricity, living things and their habitats, Earth and space, evolution and inheritance, and states of matter.

We place an emphasis on practical, hands-on experiences, enabling children to explore scientific concepts through observation, investigation, and experimentation.

4. Teaching and Learning

Science is taught through engaging, interactive lessons that encourage curiosity and inquiry. Lessons are designed to:

- Foster a sense of wonder and excitement about the natural world.
- Allow children to engage in practical investigations and experiments.
- Provide opportunities for cross-curricular learning, linking Science with subjects such as mathematics, geography, and literacy.
- Encourage children to ask questions and explore ideas, both individually and collaboratively.

Teachers use a variety of resources, including interactive media, practical equipment, and real-life examples, to support and enrich learning. Where appropriate, field trips, visits from experts, and extracurricular clubs such as Science Club and Gardening Club offer further opportunities for discovery.

5. Assessment

Assessment in science is ongoing and focuses on both the knowledge and skills that students develop. Teachers assess students through:

- **formative assessment**: Observations during lessons, class discussions, and practical activities.
- **summative assessment**: End-of-topic quizzes, written work, and project-based assessments.
- **peer and self-assessment**: Encouraging students to reflect on their own learning and the learning of others.

The results of assessments inform future planning and help ensure that all students make progress in their scientific understanding.

6. Inclusivity

At St. Mary's, we believe in providing an inclusive science education that meets the needs of all students, regardless of ability or background. We differentiate tasks to support students with additional needs and provide extension opportunities for more able students. Where necessary, we provide resources in different formats and encourage collaborative learning to ensure all pupils are actively engaged in the learning process.

7. Links to Catholic Ethos

As a Catholic school, the teaching of science is informed by our faith and values. We emphasize the importance of responsible stewardship of the Earth, inspired by our belief that the world is a gift from God. Science lessons encourage students to consider the ethical and environmental implications of scientific advancements and how human activity affects God's creation.

We also aim to nurture in students a sense of wonder and reverence for the natural world, seeing it as part of God's plan. Our science curriculum encourages pupils to reflect on their role in caring for the environment and making ethical decisions that promote sustainability and the well-being of all.

8. Resources

The school ensures that adequate resources are available to support the delivery of the science curriculum. This includes a range of practical equipment, digital tools, and reference materials. Teachers have access to a well-stocked science cupboard, and resources are regularly reviewed to ensure that they meet the needs of the curriculum.

9. Health and Safety

Science teaching at St. Mary's adheres to all relevant health and safety guidelines. Teachers ensure that pupils are trained in the safe use of equipment and are aware of potential risks in practical activities. All risk assessments are carried out prior to activities involving potentially hazardous materials or equipment.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

The science curriculum is monitored by the science coordinator and senior leadership team. Regular reviews of teaching, learning, and assessment practices ensure that the curriculum remains effective, engaging, and aligned with national expectations. Feedback from students, teachers, and parents is used to inform improvements and ensure the ongoing success of the science program.

11. Conclusion

At St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to providing a high-quality science education that inspires a love of learning, fosters curiosity, and encourages responsible stewardship of the world. By equipping our students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to think scientifically, we aim to prepare them for the challenges of the future and help them grow into thoughtful, caring individuals who respect and protect God's creation.

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it remains up-to-date and effective in meeting the needs of our students.