

**CLIFFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND**  
**INFANT SCHOOL**

**POLICY STATEMENT FOR SCIENCE**

**To be reviewed :** September 2017

**Reviewed by :** S. Preston

**Rationale**

Science makes an increasing contribution to all aspects of life. Children are naturally fascinated by everything in the world around them and science makes a valuable contribution to their understanding.

**Aims of Our Science Teaching**

We aim to :

- teach the children scientific skills;
- teach the children scientific knowledge;
- build on our children's natural curiosity;
- stimulate them to investigate and question.

**What We Teach**

We teach following The National Curriculum but we also broaden the coverage of science to follow the interests of the children and our topics.

**How We Plan Our Science**

Science is planned as part of the topics but sometimes also is taught as a discrete subject. Science has important links with technology; maths and geography and they provide excellent opportunities for language development in science. Where science mini-topics are done any links with other curriculum areas are exploited. We plan our topics as a whole school and build on materials kept in a central resources area. We deliver High Focus Weeks and Science is covered during these weeks.

**Teaching Methods**

We believe that the best way to learn science is through first-hand experience. We help children to make sense of this experience through discussion and application of their learning to new situations.

## Equal Opportunities and Differentiation

- (a) Children of all abilities can benefit from the study of science. Both boys and girls will be encouraged to take an active part in scientific investigations. In our selection of curriculum materials we are careful to avoid stereotyping other cultures as less advanced than our own.
- (b) Special Needs. Children who have special needs, educationally or physically, will be catered for in the school's schemes of work. Opportunities and experiences will be provided with an understanding as to the abilities and development of each child. All children with special needs will receive a wide, challenging curriculum, designed to develop their concepts and skills, relative to their own development level.

## Resources

- (a) A central pool of equipment is housed in labelled boxes and maintained in the resource area available to all staff.
- (b)(i) The school has a good library where there are books that cover different aspects of all the topics and are aimed at the appropriate age level of the children using them.
- (ii) Further reference books are available for staff in the general resource area in the staffroom.
- (iii) The City Library's borrowing service can be used by all classes as a back up to our own resources.

## Visits and Technology

- (a) All classes will at times be taken on visits to places related to the current topic as part of their science activities.
- (b) Television programmes can allow the child access to places and situations which are certainly outside their possible experiences. It will only complement rather than substitute first hand experiences. Cameras can visit factories, laboratories and workshops to which children will have no access. Television can also introduce children to interesting, unusual visitors and guests. Audio-visual materials will never be used as an alternative to practical activities.
- c) Computer programmes are also used to support science as are the iPads and computers..
- d) We also take part in National Science Week and have science focus weeks.

### **Safety in Science Activities**

We accept a responsibility to plan safe activities for science.

### **Assessment**

Each teacher will use their assessment of the children in their class to plan appropriate scientific work. We try to build assessment into our teaching. Where short test activities may be used. These assessments should be of benefit in their own right and contribute to the children's education.

### **Record Keeping**

Records of each pupil's progress are kept by their teachers and handed on at the end of the year. Class records of work done are handed on in the same way. This ensures continuity and progression.

### **Marking**

Science activities - though their nature can not always be physically marked, but group and class discussion will ensure that good work will be assessed by staff and children alike to foster good scientific attitudes and methods.

### **Moral, Cultural and Spiritual Aspects of Science at Clifford School**

As we investigate the world around us, opportunities arise within the classroom to recognise our responsibility to our environment and to others.

In our planning we take care not to present other cultures as less advanced as our own.

Each individual child has their own spirituality and we recognise that in scientific investigation the child can be given an opportunity to express their awe and wonder at the works of the Creator.

### **Science Club**

There is an after school science club for Y2 children.

### **The Role of the Headteacher**

The Headteacher has a vital role in encouraging colleagues to teach effective science. She has a responsibility for ensuring that the policy is used and for bringing the policy to the staff for periodic updating. The Headteacher will also ensure that the school's policy is congruent with national policy.