Science Curriculum 2025-26

Intent

St Austin's Catholic Primary School recognises and values the importance of Science and working scientifically in order to develop children's skills of scientific enquiry.

At St Austin's Catholic Primary School, we aim to develop a high-quality, fun, practical and engaging Science curriculum that inspires the next generation to succeed and excel in Science. We do this through fully adhering to the aims of the National Curriculum and fostering a healthy curiosity and interest in the three sciences.

At the heart of our progressive Science curriculum, is scientific investigation and enquiry. Wherever possible, we intend to deliver lessons where children learn through varied systematic investigations, leading to them being equipped for life to ask and answer scientific questions about the world around them. These scientific enquiry skills are embedded in each strand of Science the children study. These strands are revisited and developed throughout their time at school.

We believe Science encompasses the acquisition of knowledge, concepts, skills and positive attitudes. Throughout their time at St Austin's, the children will acquire and develop the key knowledge that has been identified within each unit and across each year group, as well as the application of scientific enquiry skills.

At St Austin's, we ensure that the working scientifically skills are built-on and developed throughout children's time at the school. Children can apply their knowledge of Science when using equipment, conducting experiments and investigation, building arguments and explaining concepts confidently, being familiar with scientific terminology and, most importantly, to continue to ask questions and be curious about their surroundings in the world around them.

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Implementation

At St Austin's Catholic Primary School, our Science curriculum is progressive. Each year group will build upon the learning and skill development from prior year groups, therefore, developing depth of understanding and progression of skills. Particular focus is given to building up children's scientific understanding and vocabulary.

Throughout our school, children explore, question, predict, plan and carry out investigations and observations before concluding their findings. Children present their own findings and learning using Science specific language, observations and diagrams.

Working scientifically skills are embedded into lessons to ensure these skills are being developed throughout the children's school career and new vocabulary and challenging concepts are introduced through direct teaching. Children are given plenty of opportunities to recap, review and develop their 'working scientifically skills' as they move through our school.

Teachers demonstrate how to use scientific equipment, and the various 'working scientifically skills' in order to embed scientific understanding. Teachers find opportunities to develop children's understanding of their surroundings by accessing outdoor learning and workshops with experts.

Through enrichment days, such as 'British Science Week' and STEM Week, we promote the profile of Science and allow time for the children to freely explore and investigate scientific topics. Here at St Austin's, we also place great importance in developing cross-curricular links between Science and other core and foundation subjects.

At St Austin's Catholic Primary School, we use both formative and summative assessment to assess the children's knowledge and understanding of the Science Curriculum. Teachers use highly effective assessment for learning in each lesson to ensure misconceptions are highlighted and addressed. With Target Tracker, we can monitor progress, attainment and achievement of all pupils throughout their time at our school. This allows teachers to track each individual child's learning journey, differentiating lesson content where appropriate, in order to ensure that each pupil can access the Science curriculum.

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Impact

The successful approach to the teaching of Science at St Austin's results in a fun, engaging, high quality science education, that provides children with the foundations for understanding the world that they can take with them once they complete their primary education. So much of Science lends itself to hands on, practical learning both inside and outside of the classroom, and so we provide children with as many opportunities to experience this as possible. Children learn the possibilities for careers in Science as a result of our community links and enrichment activities such as 'STEM Week'.

Pupil voice is used to further develop the Science curriculum, through questioning of pupils' views and attitudes towards Science, to assess the children's enjoyment of Science and to motivate learners.

Children at St Austin's will:

- Demonstrate a love of Science work and an interest in further study and work in this field.
- Retain knowledge that is pertinent to Science with a real life context.
- Be able to question ideas and reflect on knowledge.
- Be able to articulate their understanding of scientific concepts and be able to reason scientifically using rich language linked to Science.
- Demonstrate a high love of mathematical skills through their work, organising, recording and interpreting results.
- Work collaboratively and practically to investigate and experiment.
- Achieve age related expectations in Science at the end of their cohort year.