Science at St Michael's School

At St Michael's, we want children to love Science.

Intent

The curriculum has been designed so that children understand the big ideas of Science and are able to apply this within the real world.

Through the study of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, children will acquire and develop scientific knowledge through a well-planned curriculum, building on prior knowledge. Children will acquire and use a broad range of scientific vocabulary which will be revisited and built upon as children move through the school. Alongside this, children will work practically to ask and answer scientific questions. We want the children to develop inquisitive minds, where they explore the world around them through play opportunities and practical tasks. As the children progress through St Michael's, we expect to see them using equipment, conducting experiments, building arguments explaining concepts confidently and critically evaluating evidence, while continuing to ask questions and be curious about their surroundings.

We achieve this by providing a rich, diverse curriculum, underpinned by our school's core values of Respect, Honesty and Love, enabling every member of the school community to have a 'Lifetime Love for Learning'.

Implementation

Science is an integral part of school life at St Michael's; which both teachers and pupils look forward to through engaging, practical lessons. Our curriculum has been designed so that topics are taught in progressive blocks that build on content taught previously to enable a greater depth of knowledge and understanding.

In Early Years, the children have opportunities to explore the world around them, fostering a curiosity for asking questions and developing ideas.

In Key Stage One, children are taught Science lessons alongside the rich Continuous Provision environment which enables children to explore concepts, develop and test ideas and foster a love for Science and commit knowledge to their long term memory.

Children in Key Stage Two enjoy Science lessons where they relish the opportunity to use scientific skills and research to discover answers to feed their curiosity.

Precise questioning in class is used to regularly assess children and identify those with gaps or misconceptions in learning. As children's knowledge and understanding increases, they become more proficient in selecting and using scientific equipment and collating and interpreting results. Children also become increasingly confident to come to their conclusions based on real evidence. These skills are used alongside an emphasis on group work and communication, consistently using technical vocabulary and challenging concepts.

Teachers are provided with a Curriculum Map and Knowledge Webs to ensure all children are progressing their Science knowledge and skills. The Knowledge Webs identify what knowledge and skills to assess and how to do this.

Wherever possible we aim to link science to outdoor learning and we have made strong local links including with Ramsbury Estate, Marlborough College and local farms. We are grateful for the time regularly given by scientists within our community who help to enthuse us with their knowledge.

Impact

This successful approach at St Michael's School results in a fun, engaging, high quality Science education that provides children with the foundations for understanding the world. Our engagement with the local environment within Aldbourne and further afield ensures that children learn through varied and first-hand experiences of the world around them. Children at St Michael's are excited by, and enjoy Science, and this results in motivated learners.