



Science Curriculum Policy

September 2015

Rationale

At Balfour, Science is taught to develop in pupils a curiosity, enjoyment, skills and a growing understanding of the world in which they live, encouraging them to ask questions about, and investigate the physical and natural world.

Aims of the Science Curriculum at Balfour

- Deliver the Science Programmes of Study of the National Curriculum.
- Develop and extend our children's scientific understanding of their world.
- Prepare our children for life in an increasingly scientific and technological world today and in the future.
- Help our children acquire a growing understanding of the nature, processes and methods of scientific ideas and develop a scientific approach to investigations.
- Encourage open-mindedness, self-assessment, perseverance and to develop the skills of investigation – including: observing, measuring, predicting, hypothesising, experimenting, communicating, interpreting, explaining and evaluating.
- Develop the use of scientific language, recording and techniques.
- Make links between science and other subjects, especially the use of mathematics when collecting, organising and recording data.

Teaching of Science at Balfour

Science at Balfour is taught through a creative curriculum from Cornerstones. Each term a topic is taught in each year group and science is linked closely to other curriculum areas. Each year group will study at least one science focused topic per year. Through monitoring of coverage and curriculum planning it is ensured that all programmes of study from the National Curriculum are taught and scientific skills are developed through investigative learning experiences.

Key skills such as those used in mathematics, literacy and ICT will be developed through a wide and balanced science curriculum.

Marking in Science should follow the school Marking Policy, ensuring correct use of scientific language (including the correct spelling), outline positive aspects of the children's learning and dispel misconceptions.

Monitoring of the teaching and learning of Science at Balfour will take place termly, through book scrutiny, pupil interview, use of displays and analysis teacher assessment, and carried out by the subject coordinator who will report back to the Head.

Equal Opportunities

It is intended that all pupils should have access to the science curriculum. Special arrangements may need to be made for those children with Special Educational Needs and English as an additional language.

As with other subjects, in the teaching of science there is a need for an awareness of cultural, ethnic, and gender differences. All staff should act to ensure a balance of equal opportunity and expectation, in accordance with national requirements for inclusion.

Health and Safety

Staff follow the health and safety guidelines for Science teaching set out in the ASE 'Be Safe' publication and the CLEAPSS 'A Model Code of Practice for Science [and Technology] in Primary Schools' publication (both available in the Science cupboard and from the Science Coordinator).

Staff should ensure they are familiar with the health and safety requirements when handling living organisms, food and chemicals, or using tools and apparatus during Science lessons. Children should also be taught to recognise hazards and assess risks in accordance with the National Curriculum.

Resources

A wide range of equipment and resources are kept in the locked science cupboard. The key is available from the Subject Coordinator. Some items (such as microscopes and text books/reference materials) are kept within year groups. Perishable resources need to be ordered prior to use. Any additional or exceptional resources can be ordered and this can be arranged with the Science coordinator.

Kailey Hagan-Guest (Science coordinator)

Review date: September 2017