MAB'S CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCIENCE POLICY December 2017

At Mab's Cross we aim for our students to become real scientists by stimulating their curiosity for the world around them. Children are natural investigators, so practical and experimental work is the key to unlocking this enthusiasm. We develop observation and reasoning skills to help their understanding, and use mathematics in order to interpret results and draw conclusions from their investigations. This link between direct practical experiences and scientific ideas is crucial and engages learners at many levels. In Reception and KS1 science is planned and delivered via a series of topics throughout the year. The emphasis is on exploring and observing to generate questioning about materials, living things and physical phenomena. Children begin to work together to collect evidence, evaluate its meaning and question whether their tests are fair. Science is also taught through topics in KS2, but the content is now deeper and of a wider range. Students work cooperatively in groups to solve problems and answer scientific questions. They develop their use of tables, charts and graphs to present their findings, and use ICT to communicate ideas.

CURRENT PRACTICE

At Mab's Cross Primary School, all children receive a weekly science lesson of approximately 1 hour. Lessons are planned and delivered using Love to Investigate units and ILP's covering the programme of study. These schemes are designed to support the aims and objectives of the new national curriculum through a topic based approach.

Reception Guidance

In Reception topics follow the children's interests. There is a weekly focus on Knowledge and Understanding of the World, supporting objectives from Development Matters.

Teaching of Science

As a school we have recognised the importance of practical investigations. We aim to provide hands on relevant experiences to engage and stimulate the children's knowledge and interest of the world around them.
Each class completes a minimum of ten practical Love to Investigate units throughout the year and then further lessons to cover any outstanding programmes of study for the year group.

Each class has a science floor book to record class investigations and as a tool to aid assessment. The children are encouraged to record their finding in a variety of ways such as photographs, tables, graphs, diagrams and videos

Planning

Cornerstones Love to Investigate units – 10 per year

Cornerstones ILPs to complete all Programmes of Study

Units to be covered each term are recorded on the medium term planning sheets.

Scientific Language

We believe children should use the correct scientific language as a central part of their learning. New vocabulary should be introduced, where appropriate, when it links to the current topic being studied. High expectations of children to use the correct terminology are essential.

Assessment of Science

At Mab's Cross we use Science Floor Books to record the investigations taking place in each class. Within the books, staff record the stages of each investigation, using agreed headings where appropriate.
These include Questions / Predictions, Planning, Investigating, Results and Conclusions.
For each stage staff record evidence using Post-It notes, Written Plans, Photographs, Results Tables, Graphs, Charts, Diagrams and Written Conclusions.
The children are an essential part of this process and contribute to the Floor Books whenever possible.
Where individual science work has taken place, children record their findings in their Creative Curriculum Books.
Staff use all of these tools to assess the children's understanding of each science topic covered.

As a school, we value consistency and believe that it is a shared, whole-school approach that makes the difference to a child's learning.