ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Science

INTENT

At St Augustine's it is our intention to develop curious, active, lifelong learners who have a thirst for learning and who through our carefully planned and high quality science education are prepared for life in an increasingly scientific and technological world through fostering concern about, and active care for, our environment by becoming stewards of God's creation and living in a more sustainable way.

We believe that a broad and balanced science curriculum is the entitlement of all children and will reflect the equality and diversity practised in school. It enables children to acquire a growing understanding of scientific ideas and key concepts through building upon previous scientific knowledge, working scientifically and by working collaboratively. We aim to promote the love of science and inspire our pupils to consider a future career in science.

IMPLEMENTATION

At St Augustine's children begin their science learning in Foundation Stage through the 'Understanding the World' (specifically The Natural World) area of learning and then continue this journey through the school where we use the 'Engaging Science' scheme which is based on the National Curriculum document to support the planning of science. The scheme includes the essential teaching objectives for all the topics from the Science National Curriculum along with additional ideas. We see Science as a body of knowledge built up through experimental testing of ideas. Science is also methodology, a practical way of finding reliable answers to questions we may ask about the world around us. The units are topic based and each year group has a unit that runs throughout the academic year, similar to a field study- for example- Year 1 'Our Environment' unit explores seasonal changes throughout the year in our school environment. Year group units ensure progression throughout the school. Timings have also been considered for seasonal units.

Teachers carefully plan lessons (at least 2 hours a week) which build on our children's previous learning, their natural curiosity and their sense of excitement and interests. The children are encouraged to ask questions and work scientifically to further their scientific knowledge. Through the use of the Solihull scientific framework children are encouraged to plan and carryout fair tests in a progressive and scaffolded way. Our curriculum develops children's ideas and ways of working that enable them to make sense of the world in which they live in an investigative and collaborative way through researching, investigating and evaluating experiences as well as using and applying process skills.

Children will be immersed in key scientific vocabulary to support their scientific learning and will also develop their mathematical, literacy and computing skills. Visits and visitors enhance the curriculum further, for example Safety Seymour visit to Year 2, trips to Martineau Gardens in Birmingham.

Mind-maps, teacher observations, questioning and written evidence inform future planning and help track progression.

We work closely with our school eco-team and take part in Science Week yearly and work collaboratively with our local schools on projects linked to National Science week.

IMPACT

Our pupils will develop a wide variety of skills linked to both scientific knowledge and working scientifically whilst developing a rich vocabulary which will enable them to articulate their understanding of taught concepts. They will gain meaningful, memorable learning experiences that will last a life time and be independent, happy and curious lifelong learners who have a positive sense of themselves and the world around them. Citizens of the world who are motivated to make a difference in caring for our planet and who have high aspirations which will inspire them for further studies, working life and in becoming a successful and respectful member of society.