

St Paul and St Timothy's Catholic Infant School

Our Vision for Science Curriculum

At **St Paul and St Timothy's**, our vision is for every child to become a curious thinker, thoughtful questioner, and enthusiastic explorer of the world around them. We believe that **Science** is an essential subject that nurtures a sense of wonder, investigation, and discovery. Through hands-on, enquiry-based learning, our children develop the skills to ask questions, observe carefully, make predictions, and draw conclusions. They are encouraged to be inquisitive, resilient, and confident in exploring, understanding, and explaining the natural world.

Intent

At St Paul and St Timothy's Catholic Infant School, our science curriculum is designed to spark curiosity, wonder, and a lifelong interest in the world around us. Using the **Cornerstones Curriculum**, we ensure our pupils develop a secure understanding of key scientific concepts while learning to think and work like scientists.

Our intent is to nurture the *whole child*, helping them develop not only scientific knowledge and vocabulary but also essential skills such as problem-solving, questioning, and collaboration. Our science curriculum enables children to explore the natural world, observe changes, and make sense of everyday phenomena through engaging and purposeful enquiry.

We aim for all children to:

- Develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about the world.
- Learn key scientific knowledge related to everyday materials, plants, animals (including humans), habitats, and seasonal changes, in line with the **Cornerstones sequenced curriculum**.
- Acquire and apply the skills of *working scientifically*, including observing over time, identifying and classifying, pattern seeking, researching, and comparative testing.
- Build scientific vocabulary and confidence to communicate their understanding clearly.
- Connect science learning to real-life experiences, the local environment, and cross-curricular projects.

Implementation

Our science curriculum follows the structure of the **Cornerstones Curriculum**, which carefully sequences knowledge, skills, and enquiry-based learning across EYFS and Key Stage 1. Science is embedded within our half-termly cross-curricular projects, ensuring that learning is meaningful, relevant, and engaging.

Key features of our implementation include:

- Carefully structured projects such as *Seasonal Changes*, *Plant Parts*, *Habitats*, *Animal Survival*, and *Uses of Materials*, which are sequenced to build knowledge over time.
- Each project includes practical, hands-on investigations and opportunities to apply *working scientifically* skills.
- Pupils are taught to plan, observe, test, gather data, and evaluate through structured enquiry within each project.
- Lessons incorporate explicit teaching of scientific vocabulary and concepts, supported by discussion, questioning, and modelling.
- Learning extends beyond the classroom with opportunities for outdoor learning, exploration of the local environment, and relevant fieldwork.
- Ongoing formative assessment supports children's progress, alongside pre- and post-unit tasks to measure prior understanding and learning gains.

Impact

By the end of Key Stage 1, children at St Paul and St Timothy's will:

- Have a secure understanding of age-appropriate scientific knowledge and concepts, confidently using scientific vocabulary to explain their thinking.
- Be able to ask questions, plan simple investigations, make observations, gather evidence, and draw conclusions.
- Show curiosity and enthusiasm for science, recognising its importance in everyday life and the wider world.
- Make clear links between their science learning and other areas of the curriculum, developing transferable skills in problem-solving and critical thinking.
- Demonstrate their learning through regular assessments, enabling teachers to ensure all children make good progress from their starting points.

Our science curriculum equips children not only for the next stage of their learning but also to become thoughtful, inquisitive, and capable learners who are ready to engage with the ever-changing world around them.