



The Meadow Community Primary School and Pre-School

Curriculum position statements – August 2024 Science

Historical

I am new to leading science at The Meadow. I have taken on Science subject with Science already a well planned, embedded part of the wider curriculum. Science is evident everywhere in our school from working walls in classrooms to whole school displays and science themed assemblies. As part of an Ofsted visit in October 2021, science was chosen for a subject deep dive which contributed to the overall 'Good' outcome achieved by the school. For the last four years, the previous lead has also chaired the science lead meetings for all schools within the Symphony Learning Trust. For the last 6 years, there have been science ambassadors in The Meadow, where children in years 2 to 6 nominate one class rep to represent pupil voice and help to create extra-curricular opportunities. During this time, the science ambassadors have been involved in many activities from conducting a lunchtime science club in the playground to promoting and judging school science competitions. Being a science ambassador is always an extremely popular role and the children wear their science ambassador badges with pride. The Science lead has valued the contributions the ambassadors make to how science is managed within the school. It is a fantastic way to ensure that the children's voice is heard and that they are involved with the science curriculum both in and beyond the classroom. As our journey to raise the profile of science continues, we aim to create further enrichment opportunities in and beyond curriculum lessons with the outcome of inspiring our pupils to appreciate the awe and wonder in the world around them. Science is the means to this end.

Current

At The Meadow Community Primary School, the science curriculum is designed to engage, inspire and challenge our children. Through quality first teaching and enrichment opportunities we aim to encourage a thirst for learning which will prepare our children for life in an increasingly scientific and technological world.

Science teaching at our school is good when...

- It is 'hands on', engaging and fun
- Exciting enrichment opportunities are provided
It encourages children to initiate and answer their own questions
- It increases science capital
- It has a purpose and relates to the real world
- Stimulating and high-quality resources are used
- It allows children to pursue their natural curiosity and to feel like they are scientists
- It is cross-curricular and embraces opportunities to learn outside the classroom

The school follows the Plan Bee Science scheme of work because it is high quality, demonstrates progression in learning and fully covers the requirements of the science national curriculum. Alongside this scheme, I also encourage staff to use the PLAN Assess knowledge matrices and progression documents as they complement the PLAN BEE scheme and were highly recommended. These documents are particularly useful for looking at prior and future knowledge and ensure there is no repetition in teaching and learning. Meadow staff welcome opportunities for science CPD and were incredibly supportive of the PSQM process. Learning in science is regularly shared with parents and we encourage parents to engage in their child's learning in science through homework projects and competitions – which always receive high numbers of entries.



At the end of each term, each year group is also asked to complete a termly tracker to monitor the progress of boys, girls and the year group overall, using a simplified Science assessment tracker developed by the Symphony Subject Development Group. This information is then analysed so that any key stage and cohort issues can be identified and addressed. At the end of the academic year 2023-2024 data across the school was good with 88% of year 6 children working at the expected level for science. Overall, in science children at The Meadow are making good or better progress.

Last year, the subject lead and the science ambassadors also had the opportunity to work with Dr Kaitlyn Zavaleta from De Montfort University to apply to become young science reviewers for the children's science journal, *Frontiers for Young Minds*. Unfortunately, at that time the journal was not taking on anymore panellists. However, this year we are hopefully able to participate fully in the project.

In March, we were again lucky enough to have Dr Kaitlyn Zavaleta spend a day in school hosting workshops about her area of work in neurological science with years 1-6. The day was a huge success and it was wonderful to observe the children and listen to the interests and questions the children were asking in these sessions.

Future aspiration

One of the most rewarding parts of being the subject lead is seeing the impact raising the profile of science in school has had on the children. Their enthusiasm for science lessons, enrichment events and homework projects has been incredibly encouraging. Children often tell us about their science lessons, places of interest they have visited or bring in investigations from home to show me. With a vision to engage, inspire and challenge children for the future; we are well on our way to achieving this at The Meadow.

The focus and direction of science for next year is:

- to investigate and promote enrichment opportunities in science across the school (visits to places of scientific interest, visitors into school, workshops, funded sessions etc)
- to work with Mrs Wolloff, science governor, to carry out some pupil interviews and science lesson observations.
- to continue to implement the study of famous scientists (past and present) into each year group's science units to help widen the children's awareness of people in science and to promote science capital.
- Organise enrichment events for Science Week 2025.