Science at Corpus Christi

At Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, we recognise the role Science plays to encourage curiosity in children so that they ask questions that fuel explorations about the universe we live in. We aim to do this by providing the children with key vocabulary, empowering knowledge and invaluable experiences. We seek to maintain and improve a rich, broad and balanced curriculum – giving opportunities for children to conduct experiments, investigate, observe, write and use mathematical skills. We aim to provide children with core subject content that will inspire them to take an interest in Science as they move forward with their education and into adulthood.

INTENT:

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School believe that Science has an important role to play in promoting children to be inquisitive. Our curriculum fosters a healthy curiosity in children about our universe and promotes respect for the living and non-living. We believe science encompasses the acquisition of knowledge, concepts, skills and positive attitudes. Children will acquire and develop the key knowledge that has been identified within each unit and across each year group. Skills are mapped for each year group and are progressive throughout the school. The curriculum is designed to ensure that children are able to acquire key scientific knowledge through practical experiences; using equipment, conducting experiments, building arguments and explaining concepts confidently. Children are encouraged to ask questions and be curious about their surroundings with a love of science being nurtured throughout their time in our school.

IMPLEMENTATION:

At Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School Science is taught to create a positive attitude to science learning within classrooms and reinforce an expectation that all pupils are capable of achieving high standards in science. Our whole school approach to the teaching and learning of science involves the following:

Key vocabulary is introduced at the beginning of everyone lesson. This provides definitions and accompanying visuals for each word to ensure accessibility to all. This approach also means that children are able to understand the new vocabulary when it is used in teaching and learning activities and apply it themselves when they approach their work.

Teachers use progressive questioning which extends to and promotes the higher order thinking of all learners. Questions initially focus on the recall or retrieval of knowledge and then extend to promote application of the knowledge in a new situation to promote analytical thinking. Higher order questions focus on the children's own work and how they might change or create an outcome and justify a choice they have made which is based on their evaluation.

We involve problem solving opportunities that allow children to apply their knowledge and find out answers for themselves. Children are encouraged to ask their own questions and be given opportunities to use their scientific skills discover the answers. This curiosity is celebrated within the classroom. Science involves high-quality resources to aid understanding of conceptual knowledge. Precise questioning in class to check for conceptual knowledge and skills, and assess pupils regularly to identify those children with gaps in learning, so that all pupils keep up.

We build upon the knowledge and skill development of the previous years. As the children's knowledge and understanding increases, they become more proficient in selecting, using scientific

equipment, collating and interpreting results. Children become increasingly confident in their growing ability to come to conclusions based on real evidence.

Working Scientifically skills are embedded into lessons to ensure that skills are systematically developed throughout the children's school journey and new vocabulary and challenging concepts are introduced through direct teaching.

Teachers demonstrate how to use scientific equipment and the various Working Scientifically skills in order to embed scientific understanding. Teachers find opportunities to develop children's understanding of their surroundings by accessing outdoor learning and workshops with experts.

Children are offered a wide range of extra-curricular activities, visits, trips and visitors to complement and broaden the curriculum. These are purposeful and link with the knowledge being taught in class.

IMPACT:

At Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, our successful approach results in a fun, engaging, high-quality science education that provides children with the foundations and knowledge for understanding the world. Our engagement with the local environment ensures that children learn through varied and first-hand experiences of the world around them. Frequent, continuous and progressive learning outside the classroom is embedded throughout the science curriculum. Children learn the possibilities for careers in science, as a result of our career and expert videos. From this exposure to a range of different scientists from various backgrounds, all children feel they are scientists and capable of achieving. Children at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School overwhelmingly enjoy science and this results in motivated learners with sound scientific understanding.

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