



**St John
and St Nicolas
Schools Federation**

**For the good of all
through curiosity,
creativity and love**

Policy Title:	Science
Policy Reference:	FC006
Description:	How science is taught across the federation
Status:	Approved by Senior Leadership Team
Category:	Curriculum
Review frequency:	Every two years
Contact:	exechead@stjohnandstnicolasschools.org.uk
Version:	V1.1
Other relevant policies:	
Date for Review:	January 2027

Change Record				
Version Number	Date Approved	Governing Board Minute Reference	Description of Amendments	Review Date
1.0	24.01.23	SCC Minutes 24.01.23	Prepared by SLT and reviewed by Standards & Curriculum Committee	Jan 2025
1.1	April 2025	SCC Minutes 29.04.25	Policy reviewed and spirituality added	April 2027

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St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation

Science Policy

Federation Vision

At St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation, our vision is 'For the good of all – through curiosity, creativity and love.' This vision inspires everything that the federation does. It applies equally to all the federation's policies with the intention that our policies impact as fairly and positively as possible to meet the needs of all members of our schools' community.

Curriculum Statement

Our federation is a journey for all of our children from the Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 6 and beyond. Our curriculum aim is for children's time with us to prepare them for life after our schools. Each child in our schools is recognised as an individual with their own ambitions, needs, skills and aspirations and it will be our schools' role to support and challenge each individual to achieve these.

Our curriculum will allow all children to develop the key skills of reading, writing and maths through a broad and balanced curriculum providing a wide range of experiences. Throughout our schools, we will promote equality and diversity and will provide every opportunity for children to develop resilience, confidence and enthusiasm, so becoming imaginative, creative and independent learners able to make informed decisions. Our rich curriculum, complemented by our nurturing approach will allow all our children to develop emotionally and spiritually.

We value all aspects of the school curriculum and will ensure our curriculum encompasses spiritual, moral, social, cultural, emotional and physical education.

How Science fits into our Federation Curriculum

We provide appropriate learning opportunities so that pupils develop the skills needed to be active citizens within an increasingly scientific world and understand their environmental impact on it. Through building up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils will be encouraged to ask scientific questions, test ideas and recognise the power of rational explanation. All children at St Nicolas and St John's are encouraged to develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena and an understanding of how to care for our world. They will be developing their understanding of the world through different types of scientific enquiries that help them to hypothesise and answer questions about the world around them. They will be equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.

Curriculum Organisation and Content for Science

The federation has adopted the PLAN framework (Planning for Assessment) to provide teachers with a clear framework for planning science curriculum progression in both knowledge and scientific skills from EYFS to year 6.

www.planassessment.com

The lessons will involve a mixture of asking questions and planning enquiries, setting up enquiries, observing, measuring, recording, reporting, interpreting and evaluating.

Spirituality in Science

Spirituality can be explored in every subject. In Science, this is developed through curiosity about our world and life elsewhere, as well as appreciating the miracles of our natural world. Big questions can be explored and science can help children to make sense of the world by asking challenging questions that don't always have an answer.

Inclusion, Support and Challenge

All children will participate in science lessons and support and challenge will be provided as appropriate for each child.

Assessment

Assessment of children's development is made through a combination of end of unit assessments, ongoing teacher assessment, formal tasks and year tests where appropriate. A record is kept of children's achievements in Science including 'Working Scientifically' through teacher's own notes and our schools' record systems. Progress and achievement in Science is reported to parents through end of year reports and informally during autumn and spring parent meetings.

At St John's School the children's progress in working scientifically skills will be recorded in floor books as well as informal observations of pupils and discussions about their scientific learning. The children will be recorded as at emerging or expected standard. Teachers' knowledge of pupils' strengths and weaknesses is used to inform their planning of future lessons and the focus of targeted support. In order to achieve this, teachers will aim to elicit the scientific understanding of their children through formative assessment at the beginning of a scientific topic.

Monitoring

Methods for monitoring science across the two schools will include:

- Book monitoring (Including floor books for EYFS/KS1)
- Lesson Observations
- Pupil canvassing
- Planning - monitoring of long term and medium-term plans
- Staff meetings

Health and Safety

Consideration of health and safety issues is of the utmost importance in science. Focus areas include:

- appropriate handling of equipment and materials
- appropriate storage of equipment and materials.

Resources

Central resources in science are the responsibility of the school's science co-ordinator who ensures that these materials are up to date and are of a high enough quality to support the lessons. A small budget is available to the science coordinator.

The library houses a substantial stock of books on science-based subjects and is used regularly for reference.