

Science- What's it all about?



Intent- what are we trying to achieve with our curriculum?

Our intentions are to develop a high-quality science education which:

- builds up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts;
- encourages pupils to recognise the power of rational explanation;
- and fosters a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena.

We encourage children to:

- ask questions about the world around them;
- understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring;
- predict how things will behave;
- and analyse causes.

Ultimately, St. Mark's aims to foster pupils who are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.

Implementation- how is our curriculum delivered?

- Areas of study and their objectives are taken from the National Curriculum.
- Concepts are largely taught and developed through practical scientific inquiry.
- Theory stems from the practical, rather than theory being taught, and proven by practical.
- Curiosity and experience drive the planning and investigations/learning is pupil-led.
- Data is the key focus to learn from – measuring, recording, presenting and analysing.
- Reliability of results is considered in order to better understand the practice of fair testing; retesting to adjust unfair variables.
- Science is cross-curricular and purposeful (often linked to class texts).
- Children reference/learn from scientists (past, present and visitors) to extend knowledge and quality of practice.
- STEM links are built within and across the curriculum areas (possible STEM leader opportunity).

Impact- what difference is our curriculum making?

- Teachers think of, plan for and assess Science as a core subject.
- Pupils leave St. Mark's as scientists (rather than encyclopaedias).
- Science is seen as a valuable subject providing a worthy skillset.
- Assessment in Science is better founded and progress is easier to see.
- Science is celebrated alongside English and Maths: raising the profile of this core subject within the school.
- St. Mark's is a model school for the teaching of Science.