SCIENCE POLICY

HATFIELD PEVEREL INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Inspiring a Love of Learning

APPROVED BY GOVERNORS: March 2026

POLICY TO BE REVIEWED: March 2027

Statement of Intent

At Hatfield Peverel Infant and Nursery School we aim to develop children's scientific knowledge, skills and understanding through an engaging, investigative approach. We encourage children to ask and answer questions to foster their curiosity about the world around them. Investigations will allow the children to develop their enquiry skills and make meaningful connections in their learning. Children will have opportunities to explore their own learning and work collaboratively enabling them to innovate, discover and form conclusions.

Aims

We aim for all pupils

- to access a broad and stimulating Science curriculum throughout the school.
- to develop a sense of wonder and interest in Science through observation, exploration and asking questions.
- to learn from first-hand experience and to gather and evaluate data.

Principles

In the Nursery and Reception Years, children follow the progression laid out in the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Framework with an emphasis upon practical exploration and discovery within their indoor and outdoor environments.

In Year I and Year 2, children move to working within the National Curriculum programme of study for Key Stage 1.

In both Year 1 and Y2, children are required to 'Work Scientifically' within the allocated units. Pupils will be taught to work scientifically by:

- asking simple questions & recognising that they can be answered in different ways
- observing closely, using simple equipment
- performing simple tests
- identifying & classifying
- using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions

The Year 1 'programme of study' covers:

- Plants
- Animals, including humans
- Everyday materials
- Seasonal changes

The Year 2 'programme of study' covers:

- Habitats and living things
- Plants
- Animals, including humans
- Uses of everyday materials

These units are linked to the topics that we cover. There is a key scientific unit each half term and teachers organise the timetable to allow for both short input sessions and also the blocking of time to allow for longer projects, including investigations. Further details can be found on the 'Science Progression of Skills' maps and on the 'Yearly Plan' for each Year Group.

Teaching and Learning

Science planning, teaching and assessment is the responsibility of the Class Teacher. Where possible Science is linked to the class topic. Areas to be covered within each topic are detailed on the 'Yearly Plan' for each Year Group and stored on the Staff shared drive enabling consultation during P.P.A. time (Planning, Preparation & Assessment time).

The emphasis should always be upon practical first-hand investigation, observation, data collection and interpretation, adapted to ability where applicable. Quality First Teaching is supported via a range of central science resources stored in the main corridor, relevant science books that are linked to key topics which are kept in the appropriate topic boxes in the resource room and a range of ICT subscriptions that are available to further support topic coverage.

One investigation is planned for each half term in each year group. This should link to the class topic so the children can make meaningful connections.

SEND children can expect to have equal access to all activities at a level suited to their ability. Teachers should always be alert for any children who may demonstrate an unexpected aptitude for the subject and record this appropriately.

Children are encouraged to develop a confident, 'problem-solving' approach to a wide range of activities with cross-curricular links where appropriate. Opportunities are provided for challenging, open-ended investigations where there is no limit to the outcome expected. The use of 'higher order' and open-ended questioning by adults is of paramount importance to developing children's scientific thinking.

Consideration is always given using the 'outdoor area'. The 'school garden' area is equipped with a range of resources to foster open ended scientific enquiry where children are given opportunities to engage in personal exploration where all ideas are encouraged and valued.

Assessment And Monitoring

- All planning, recording and assessment is in accordance with the appropriate policies currently in place.
- Informal judgements will be on-going and may often arise as a result of responses to questioning. These informal judgments must feed into more formal assessment procedures in order to give a rounded view of achievement.
- Children are assessed on tracking grids against National Curriculum attainment targets on a termly basis or against relevant EYFS statements.

Monitoring Science within the school and the progress of the children is carried out by a number of staff members ranging from the Science Lead, Classroom Teacher, Learning Support Assistants, and the Headteacher.

The Science Lead keeps samples of children's work in a digital folder and photos are uploaded to Tapestry. The work of the Science Lead involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of Science and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in school. Monitoring of Science takes place throughout the school by:

- Observations of individual lessons.
- Discussion with both adults and children (staff and pupil voice).

- Looking at classroom displays.
- Observation of children's work.
- Assessment of pupils work and achievement.
- Planning analysis.

Health And Safety

There are a range of risk assessments in place and stored centrally at the school office to ensure Science activities that could pose a risk are properly managed, for example:

- handling / preparation of foods
- tasting activities (regarding food allergies)
- touching of animals, soil and minibeasts
- use of the school garden

It is the responsibility of teaching staff to ensure they take regard of any health and safety guidance when planning and delivering such lessons.

March 2025
K. Francis (Science Lead)