St Luke's School: Health & Safety in Science Policy

2025

Government of Jersey policies

St Luke's school works within the framework of the Government of Jersey policies and codes of practice. Please access the latest published copies of these via the link below:

Children, Young People, Education and Skills Policies (gov.je)

A high-quality Science education provides foundations for understanding the world. Through building key knowledge and understanding of concepts, pupils should be encouraged to recognise the power of explanation and develop a sense of curiosity about natural phenomena. We also aim for children to develop responsibility for their own health and safety and that of others when undertaking scientific activities.

School Overview of Science

In the Foundation Stage, science (which is embedded in the learning area 'understanding the world') is delivered through a range of child-initiated and adult initiated activities in the indoor and outdoor learning environment. It is taught alongside other areas of learning. The teaching in Key Stage 1 builds upon the Early Learning Goals achieved at the end of the Foundation Stage using the programmes of study for Science, set out year-by-year for key stages 1 and 2. Schools are, however, only required to teach the relevant programme of study by the end of the key stage. Within each key stage, schools therefore have the flexibility to introduce content earlier or later than set out in the programme of study. 'Working scientifically' specifies the understanding of the nature, processes and methods of Science for each year group and should not be taught as a separate strand. This element will be embedded throughout the delivery of the Science curriculum at St Luke's. Cross-curricular links are also made where possible to enhance the learning of Science.

Planning

It is the responsibility of the class teacher/ year group teachers to undertake the Science planning for their class, or oversee it where a student may be taking the class.

Long term plans:

Long term plans (or yearly plans) are shown on the curriculum overview for each year group.

Medium term plans:

Medium term planning should show an overview of what will be covered week by week. Opportunities for 'Scientific Enquiry' should be included wherever possible. They should include information about what will happen in the lesson and relevant vocabulary, questions they wish to ask and a resource list. Opportunities for cross-curricular links may also be identified. Where there are health and safety issues, these should be clearly shown on the planning and acted upon accordingly.

Short term plans:

These are not collected in or monitored by Subject Leaders/SLT. Staff use these to be fully prepared (as an aid memoir) and communicate learning with Teaching Assistants.

Resources

The school holds a central bank (Science cupboard) of teachers' resource books and frequently used resources including hand lenses, magnets, thermometers and measuring equipment. Children are encouraged to choose from a range of equipment and are trained in the safe and considerate use of animals, plants and consumable materials. Expensive and less frequently used items are also kept within the central store. Objects which are specific to a single year group may be kept within those classes.

The Science coordinator is responsible for maintaining this area and ordering any necessary items that have been identified as a need. All staff members have a shared responsibility for collecting and returning necessary items to the correct place to ensure that resources are easy for all staff to access.

Health and Safety

The safe use of equipment and consideration of others is promoted at all times. It is important that children are taught the rules of safety when undertaking experiments and investigations. Materials and equipment need to be handled sensibly and we try to ensure that children do this. It is the teacher's responsibility to make sure that all helpers (TAs, parents etc.) are aware of safety implications connected with any Science activity they are undertaking.

The Association for Science Education publication, "Be Safe!", should be used by staff as a point of reference for issues regarding health and safety. A copy of this is held in the Science Subject Leaders file and teachers are encouraged to use this as an aid. The school's "Health and Safety Policy" should be consulted for details regarding scissors, craft tools, electrical equipment, wet areas, heavy equipment and use of other tools. When planning activities, safety issues should be identified in detail in the Medium term plans and acted upon accordingly. Children should be made aware of safety issues and, where appropriate, the reasons behind them. Activities which take place away from the school's premises will require a separate risk assessment form to be filled in.

When working with tools, equipment and materials in practical activities and in different environments, pupils should be taught:

- about hazards, risks and risk control
- to recognise hazards, assess consequent risks and take steps to control risks to themselves and others
- to use information to assess the immediate and cumulative risks
- to manage their environment to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others
- to explain the steps they take to control risks.