

Parkside House School

Science Curriculum – Intent, Implementation, Impact

Intent

At Parkside House School, we recognise the importance of science in helping pupils understand the world around them and make informed choices in their everyday lives. As a secondary SEN, trauma-informed school, our science curriculum is designed to be safe, engaging, practical and meaningful, promoting curiosity, resilience and confidence.

We aim to deliver a high-quality, inclusive science curriculum that is adapted from the National Curriculum and accessible to all learners, regardless of starting point. Through hands-on investigation, outdoor and off-site learning, enrichment activities and real-life contexts, pupils develop scientific knowledge, vocabulary and working scientifically skills.

Our intent is for pupils to experience science as something relevant, achievable and empowering, supporting emotional regulation, social development and preparation for adulthood, while fostering curiosity and a lifelong interest in science.

Implementation

Science is taught in planned topic areas and delivered in small, supportive groups, allowing lessons to be adapted to individual needs, abilities and emotional readiness. Teaching is flexible and trauma-informed, ensuring pupils feel safe to explore, question and make mistakes.

Key features of implementation include:

- A strong focus on practical, investigative learning, with pupils encouraged to ask questions, make predictions, test ideas and reflect on outcomes.
- Working Scientifically skills embedded across all key stages, including observing, measuring, recording data, analysing results and explaining findings using scientific vocabulary.
- Explicit teaching and modelling of scientific language and equipment use, supported by knowledge organisers and carefully scaffolded resources.
- Opportunities for outdoor learning, off-site visits and expert workshops, enhancing engagement and real-world understanding.
- Enrichment activities, including animal care, which support wellbeing, empathy, responsibility and positive social interaction.
- Cross-curricular links with maths, PE, geography, literacy, catering and life skills, reinforcing the relevance of science beyond the classroom.
- Appropriate accreditation pathways at KS4, including **GCSEs, Entry Level, and AQA Unit Award Schemes**, matched to individual learner needs.

Assessment is ongoing and largely **low-pressure and formative**, informing next steps while minimising anxiety and supporting progress for all pupils.

Impact

As a result of our science curriculum, pupils develop a secure understanding of scientific concepts alongside the confidence to apply their knowledge in practical and real-life situations. Pupils show increased engagement, curiosity and resilience, understanding that learning from mistakes is part of the scientific process.

Pupils leave Parkside House School with:

- Improved scientific knowledge and vocabulary appropriate to their ability
- The ability to work safely, collaboratively and independently in practical settings
- Increased confidence in problem-solving, data interpretation and communication
- A positive relationship with learning, supported by trauma-informed practice
- Skills and qualifications that prepare them for further education, training and adult life

Science at Parkside House School provides pupils with the foundations to understand the world, engage with their community and make informed choices, supporting both academic success and personal development.