

Holy Angels National School

Clogher,
Claremorris,
Co. Mayo.
F12RC95



T: 094-9360316
E: principal@holyangelsns.ie
Web: www.holyangelsns.ie
Roll: 17482P

Science Policy

Introduction

Clogher National School is committed to providing a high-quality science education that fosters curiosity, critical thinking, and a deep appreciation for the natural world. We believe that science education plays a vital role in developing well-rounded individuals who are equipped to understand and engage with the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

Rationale

Science education is essential for developing students' understanding of the world around them and equipping them with the skills necessary to solve complex problems. By studying science, students learn to:

- **Think critically:** Analyze information, evaluate evidence, and draw conclusions.
- **Problem-solve:** Identify problems, develop solutions, and test their effectiveness.
- **Communicate effectively:** Share ideas, explain concepts, and present findings clearly.
- **Collaborate with others:** Work effectively in teams to achieve common goals.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of our science curriculum are to:

- Promote inquiry-based learning through hands-on experiments and investigations.
- Encourage students to develop problem-solving skills and a scientific mindset.
- Cultivate a sense of wonder and respect for the environment.

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- Connect science learning to the local community and natural surroundings.
- Prepare students for further study in science and related fields.
- Foster a lifelong interest in science and scientific inquiry.

Curriculum and Assessment

Clogher National School adheres to the Irish Primary Schools Curriculum for Science, which is organized into four strands:

1. Living Things
2. Energy and Forces
3. Materials
4. Environmental Awareness and Care

We will utilize a variety of assessment methods, including observations, practical work, and formal assessments, to track student progress and inform our teaching. Differentiated learning approaches will be implemented to cater to students' diverse needs.

Teaching and Learning

- **Inquiry-Based Learning:** We will prioritize inquiry-based learning, where students actively explore scientific concepts through experimentation and observation.
- **Practical Experiences:** Our curriculum will emphasize hands-on activities and experiments using simple materials and equipment.
- **Local Context:** We will leverage our local environment and community to make science learning relevant and engaging. For example, we may study local wildlife, investigate the quality of our local water source, or explore renewable energy sources in our area. (see Community Links below).
- **Technology Integration:** We will use digital tools and resources, such as online simulations or educational apps, to enhance learning and provide opportunities for further exploration.

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Resources and Facilities

We will ensure that our school has adequate resources to support effective science teaching and learning, including:

- A well-equipped designated science area
- A variety of scientific equipment and materials
- Access to outdoor learning spaces for nature-based investigations
- Educational resources, such as books, magazines, and online databases

Community Links

Clogher National School is committed to fostering a strong connection with the local community and actively participates in the Green Schools Programme. We believe that by engaging with our community and promoting environmental sustainability, we can create a more vibrant and resilient future for all. Our school will collaborate with local businesses, organizations, and individuals to implement environmental initiatives, such as community clean-ups, biodiversity projects, and energy-saving campaigns. By working together, we can make a positive impact on our local environment and inspire future generations to become responsible stewards of the planet.

Safety and Wellbeing

- Safety Protocols: We will implement strict safety protocols to protect students and staff during science activities.
- Positive Culture: We will promote a positive and inclusive culture in our science classroom, encouraging students to ask questions, take risks, and collaborate with their peers.
- Environmental Awareness: We will incorporate environmental education into our science curriculum, fostering awareness of sustainability issues and promoting responsible citizenship.

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By adhering to this science policy, Clogher National School aims to provide a stimulating and engaging learning environment that equips our students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become informed and responsible citizens.

Ratification and Review:

This Science policy is a living document that will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our pupils.

This policy was ratified by the BoM on 17th October 2024 and will be reviewed again in May 2024.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson BOM

Principal/ Secretary BOM