

SCIENCE POLICY

Rationale

Science provides opportunities for students to nurture their natural curiosity about their world. At Alphington Primary School, an inquiry-based approach encourages students to be curious, to wonder, explore, and make sense of the biological, physical, chemical and Earth and Space sciences. APS students explore Science across the curriculum and become Science literate citizens. Students develop an understanding of science's contribution to our culture and society, and its applications in our lives.

Aims:

To

- Appreciate the dynamic role of science in technological, social and cultural change.
- Acquire and use the skills of scientific investigation; including reasoning, problem-solving, analysing, conducting experiments, to make evidenced based conclusions.
- Acquire knowledge of the biological, physical, chemical and Earth and Space sciences.
- Understand the importance of science in our everyday lives.
- Develop an ability to communicate scientific understanding and findings to a range of audiences.
- Make links between Science and other curriculum areas.

Implementation:

1. The main reference for the teaching of Science is the AusVELS.
2. The Science Coordinator leads and reviews the school's Science program and manages the Science budget.
3. A consistent whole school pedagogical approach is documented and implemented in the teaching and learning of the Science program.
4. Cross-curricular priorities (Sustainability, links with Asia and our Indigenous heritage) are embedded in the Science program.
5. Student achievement in Science is reported to parents annually.
6. Student achievement is monitored and assessed using formative and summative measures to determine program planning and establish student learning goals.
7. A differentiated program is provided to accommodate students' diverse needs.
8. Opportunities are provided through a 'hands on' inquiry based approach to promote curiosity and questioning encouraging students to form explanations, to justify hypotheses and make generalisations on the changing world in which they live.
9. Students reflect on and communicate their scientific understandings to a range of audiences making links with the local and global community.
10. Teacher capacity is developed through targeted and relevant professional development.

Evaluation

The School Council will be responsible for the review of the Science Policy within the life of the School Strategic Plan.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in ...

May 2014