



Covid 19 Update to Science Policy

The following additions to our policy have been made in light of guidance published by the Government regarding Covid 19 and the wider opening of school.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools-july-2nd-2020>). All of the following expectations have been put in place to ensure the safety of our whole school community.

Science Knowledge and Skills

Children will be baselined for their scientific knowledge and skills in September 2020, using Headstart scheme to understand which Key Objectives children have achieved and consolidated. A diagnostic analysis will support teachers with the learning gaps that need to be taught to ensure children can make accelerated progress.

Gwlady's Street Primary school uses a science scheme (Kent), whereby each year group builds on the previous year's learning, therefore teachers will be able to know which topics/objectives have not been covered in the Summer of 2020. Teachers will therefore need to plan carefully for gaps in knowledge to be able to accelerate learning in these areas. Scientific skills will need to be constantly taught and consolidated for pupils each week.

We believe in giving our children first hand experiences, however, teachers will need to risk assess any investigations that children can do safely within the Health and Safety guidelines and can be done in no more than groups of two. However, where possible teachers should utilise the outdoors for small groups of children to observe investigations and be aware of social distancing.

Plastic equipment in one bubble cannot be moved to another for 72 hours after cleaning – 48 hours for other materials - and all children will have to be directed to wash hands more often during sessions with scientific equipment.

Gwlady's Street will use Cleapps to help support risk assessments for Science – password on risk assessment.

During school closure for COVID-19 all teaching staff completed 40 hours of Science training to support their knowledge and understanding of the National Curriculum and the best practices to teach this core subject.

This has resulted in change of policy for staff to deliver:

- Lessons at least 1 to 2 hours long from Key Stage 1 and 2.
- Early Years having a focus on the world around them and using opportunities in the base.
- Introducing scientific planning sheets (age appropriate for the three key stages) to ensure children can work scientifically.
- Link to real life scenarios.
- Use the new assessments to ensure misconceptions and gaps are addressed.
- All science working walls to display planning boards.
- Emphasis on science vocabulary teaching and their definitions – also displayed on planning boards.
- Show an enjoyment for the subject.

