

Spensley Street Primary School

SCIENCE EDUCATION POLICY

RATIONALE

Science is an integral part of our day to day lives.

Science education offers students a valuable way of exploring and understanding their world. It helps them operate effectively in their environment, and prepares them to take an informed role in society.

Science education develops students' abilities to ask questions and find answers about the natural and physical world.

Students should be able to see the connections between science and people. They should be aware of the impact of science on society, the individual and the environment.

DEFINITION

Science education involves discovering, explaining, questioning, gathering data, testing describing, valuing, caring, being responsible and taking action in order to make sense of the physical world and beyond.

PRINCIPLES

1. For general principles about teaching and learning refer to the Teaching and Learning Policy.
2. Science education is one of the content areas of the integrated curriculum.
3. Children by nature are theorists and problem-solvers, keen to explain and interpret their experiences, to resolve issues they see as important, and to design and build. They bring their perceptions and beliefs to the learning situation.
4. Children, as experienced problem-solvers, have their own strategies for learning and solving problems.
5. Students must have opportunities to feel that they are succeeding, to explore and reflect on their understandings and skills, and use them in a variety of contexts.
6. All students should study science which should be presented in meaningful and relevant contexts. The goals, methods and content of science education should provide for the needs and progress of all students.
7. It is the responsibility of teachers to engage students in a number of ideas in order to gain a deeper understanding, rather than seek universal coverage with superficial understanding and application.
8. Science is an intrinsic part of the curriculum.

GOALS

Through Science education:

1. Students will develop knowledge and skills central to chemical, biological, earth and physical sciences
2. Students will be able to apply knowledge and understanding of some key scientific principles and ideas to predict and explain events in the natural and physical world
3. Students will develop and use the skills of scientific investigation, reasoning and analysis to generate or refine knowledge, ask questions and find solutions
4. Students will develop scientific attitudes such as flexibility, curiosity, respect for evidence, and critical reflection
5. Students will be able to communicate scientific understandings in appropriate scientific language.

STRATEGIES

Science education may be taught through:

1. a developmentally appropriate integrated curriculum
2. co-operative learning activities
3. inquiry learning
4. pursuing interest based curriculum activities.
5. To assist teachers to develop their science programs, adequate resources will be provided and staff will be encouraged to develop and extend their skills and knowledge in science through on-going and comprehensive professional development that aims to meet individual and whole school needs.

REFERENCES

- SSPS Teaching and Learning Policy and Program
- Victorian Essential Learning Standards
- The Science Course Advice
- SSPS Environmental Education policy

DATE

Original Policy	1995
Reviewed	2007