

# St George Catholic College: Practical Science Policy

## 1. Scope of policy

- i. This policy applies to all Science teachers, technicians and members of the leadership team
- ii. This policy covers all Science lessons, whether they take place in a specialist Science laboratory or not
- iii. This policy does not cover the Health & Safety management and precautions taken within lessons.

## 2. Safety

- i. The safety of students and staff is the first priority at all times. Consideration of what is safe comes before all other considerations (including cost and resourcing)

## 3. Purpose of Practical Science

- i. The "Good Practical Science" (2017) report identified three main purposes for doing practical work in Science lessons. These are;
  - a. To develop an understanding of the scientific approach to enquiry.
  - b. To develop knowledge and understanding of the natural world.
  - c. To learn how to use laboratory equipment and how to carry out standard procedures.
- ii. It is acknowledged that each of these purposes can be met without carrying Practical work, and so it is down to the judgement of the teacher to decide when and how a practical activity is included within a lesson.

## 4. Responsibilities

- i. Senior Leadership Team: The SLT will understand the distinctive nature of Science, and the value of practical activities. They will endeavour to provide suitable resourcing to allow students a good experience of practical Science.
- ii. Head of Department: As well as responsibility for monitoring Health and Safety across the department, the HoD will work to raise the profile of practical science across the department and College. The HoD will ensure staff are suitably trained and supported to deliver high quality practical activities, and work alongside the technician and SLT to ensure the resourcing is in place.
- iii. Technicians: The technician team will provide the practical equipment requested by teachers, and maintain it as needed. They will ensure supplies of consumables are kept up to date, that new staff are allowed time and space to practice practical activities. Where appropriate, they can support within lessons either through performing demonstrations or supporting the teacher as an experienced specialist.
- iv. Teachers: All teachers in the department will make good use of practical activities as part of their teaching. They will consider carefully what the intended learning is from an activity, and plan how this is best achieved, for example whether students should work individually, in groups or observe a demonstration. Teachers will be proactive in their CPD and engage with opportunities to develop and improve their practice.

## 5. Inclusion

- i. All pupils should, where possible, be given access to all practical activities taking place within their lessons. Teachers will consider EAL and SEND students, and make adjustments where needed, without compromising safety.
- ii. Support and advice will be sought, by teachers, from the Head of Department, technicians and SENCO where needed.

#### **6. Level of technician support**

- i. The Association for Science Education (ASE) have set a benchmark for technician support which Saint George will aim to meet. The benchmark is;
  - i. Technician hours per week = total science teaching hours per week x 0.65
  - ii. This calculation is based on technicians being employed 52 weeks per year
  - iii. For the academic year 2022-2023 this produces a benchmark target of 65 hours per week.
  - iv. Technician support has been extended this year to allow a greater frequency and quality of practical work and is now 70 hours per work

To find out further information regarding practical work within Science at Saint George Catholic College, please contact Ms Claire Weaver (Head of Science) - [cweaver@stgcc.co.uk](mailto:cweaver@stgcc.co.uk)

Last date reviewed: Sept 2022

Date of next review: Sept 2023