

Key Stage 3 Science

In Shimna, our students in years 8, 9 and 10 follow the popular 'Spotlight Science' course and aims to stimulate pupils' curiosity and enthusiasm to develop a sense of wonder in science. Developing skills in scientific methods of enquiry can engage pupils to develop understanding of the processes of science as well as content of scientific knowledge.

Using investigation and practical experiments to increase motivation, support collaborative working and connect learning about science to the real world, pupils will develop their thinking skills and personal capabilities. Adopting a more enquiry based and problem centred approach will spur pupils' critical and creative thinking, encouraging them to ask more questions to develop and evaluate explanations of phenomena and events in the world around them.

Pupils will make real world connections through discussion about science based issues which affect their lives, the society in which they live and the world as a whole. They will explore the advantages and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments for the environment and society, the impact on industry, business and medicine and our overall quality of life.

Further opportunities for making links with Learning for Life and Work include exploring how scientists have influenced the way we live, emphasising the relevance of science to life now and in the future and how the skills and knowledge developed in this subject area can be applied in life and work.

By gaining a better understanding of the practices, processes and limits of scientific knowledge pupils will be better equipped to make personal decisions now, and in the future, about moral and ethical issues.

Within the revised curriculum, there is a greater emphasis on taking time to learn with understanding, to consolidate pupils' knowledge and enable them to make connections both within science and with other areas of learning. A greater focus on skills and capabilities aims to develop pupils as independent learners.

By adopting an enquiry based and questioning approach, key stage 3 science aims to stimulate pupils' curiosity and generate enthusiasm to further study science at key stage 4 and beyond.