School 1

Documentary Analysis summary of results

**References to Primary Science**

There is no page on the school website dedicated to the curriculum area of science. In the Ofsted report, there is one mention of a nature trail which is being used well for science, but no comments about curriculum coverage or teaching quality. The school prospectus states that children need to undertake scientific investigations to develop their scientific skills, but there is no statement which clearly refers to Science, as there is for the foundation subjects such as History and Geography. This is at odds with the school holding a Gold Award from the Primary Science Quality Mark.

**References to assessment of progress in primary science:**

There were no references to assessment in science found in the Ofsted report, school prospectus, SEF, website, Teaching and Learning Policy, Curriculum Policy or the Planning, Assessment and Reporting Policy.

In the Teaching and Learning Policy, it says that “our primary focus is to further the knowledge and skills of the children… We regularly review the progress of each child and set revised targets”. This indicates that assessment is formative as well as summative, and the outcomes of the data are used to revise the children’s goals.

The Planning, Assessment and Reporting Policy gives a clear rationale for the use of formative assessment and states that: “assessment is an integral and continuous part of teaching and learning”. The Planning, Assessment and Reporting Policy also implies a high level of assessment literacy among teachers when it says that “staff need to distinguish whether they are marking for correction or marking to help identify learning needs”.

**References to teacher development and teacher learning:**

Ofsted notes that the teachers feel “valued and supported…they support each other through shared lesson planning, lesson observations and feedback”. It sounds as though there is a strong system in place for discussing teaching ideas and receiving the advice of colleagues.

The SIP and SEF mention Lesson Study, although it’s not clear if this is already in operation. The Teaching and Learning Policy says that “we believe in the concept of lifelong learning” and that all teachers “reflect upon their strengths and weaknesses and plan their professional development accordingly”. The SEF and SIP both mention training booked in science. They also mention development of a “science link to writing”, implying a cross-curricular approach at this school to planning topics and gathering evidence of progress in writing.