**Assessment in Science at Tavistock Primary and Nursery School**

This overview should be read alongside our School Assessment Policy.

At Tavistock Primary and Nursery School, our commitment to assessment in science is grounded in the recognition that a high-quality science education provides the foundations for understanding the world. The specific disciplines of biology, chemistry, and physics play a crucial role in shaping pupils' comprehension of the natural world. Science, as a dynamic field, has changed our lives and is fundamental to the world's future prosperity. It is our belief that all pupils should be equipped with essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes, and uses of science.

Through our assessment practices, we aim to foster a deep understanding of scientific concepts and encourage pupils to recognise the power of rational explanation. We strive to instil in them a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. Our approach is designed to build a robust foundation of key knowledge and concepts, empowering pupils to understand how science can be used to explain occurrences, predict behaviours, and analyse causes.

*‘*By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study*.’* (National Curriculum)

**Formative Assessment:**

During science lessons, formative assessments are integral to our teaching strategy. Teachers employ a range of methods, including questions, tasks, and well-structured activities, to gauge pupils' understanding and skills. These assessments, whether presented orally or as part of a group activity, aim to create a dynamic learning environment that encourages discussion, debate, and the sharing of ideas.

Through a detailed science curriculum map, teachers are aware of prior learning which links to current learning. Opportunities are planned for to revisit and recap prior learning to support children in making connections and to ensure children have a solid understanding of each skill or concept they are focussing on.

Teachers utilise the information gathered to adapt lessons and inform future teaching and learning in order to foster a deeper understanding of the scientific content.

**Summative Assessment:**

Our summative assessment strategies align with the overarching goal of providing a comprehensive science education. End-of-sequence assessments involve low-stakes quizzes, class tests, and assessment questions that offer insights into pupils' knowledge and identify any misconceptions. Adaptations to planning are made based on these assessments, ensuring continuous improvement in teaching and learning.