

Science Curriculum Intent Statement for Park Aspire AP Academy

At Park Aspire AP Academy, we understand that for our pupils, the journey to academic success begins with re-engagement and rediscovery. Our science curriculum is designed to ignite curiosity, rebuild confidence, and offer opportunities for our pupils to thrive in a safe, supportive environment. Reflecting our school ethos, "Individually we ASPIRE, together we EXCEED," our science curriculum seeks to inspire pupils by fostering a love of learning, developing scientific knowledge, and encouraging critical thinking.

As part of our commitment to pupil voice, "It starts with us," we create a curriculum that is personalised to the needs, interests, and experiences of each pupil. We recognise that many of our students may have had negative experiences with education, and we aim to re-engage them by making science relevant, engaging, and accessible. We use a wide range of awe and wonder activities—hands-on experiments, real-world investigations, and immersive experiences—that capture the imagination and allow pupils not only make science exciting but also provide a powerful tool for developing social, emotional, and mental well-being by boosting self-esteem and a sense of achievement.

Our science curriculum focuses on three main areas:

1. **Engagement and Exploration:** We want our pupils to see science as something they can actively participate in and enjoy. Through practical experiments and interactive activities, we ensure that pupils are directly involved in the learning process. By connecting science to real-life situations, we aim to make it meaningful and relevant, showing pupils that science is everywhere around them and part of their everyday lives. These experiences foster a sense of wonder and excitement that helps pupils rediscover the joy of learning.
2. **Scientific Knowledge and Skills:** Our curriculum builds foundational scientific knowledge, enabling pupils to develop an understanding of the natural world. Whether studying biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science, pupils engage in a structured learning process that develops their scientific vocabulary, understanding, and reasoning skills. Through practical investigations, problem-solving tasks, and critical discussions, pupils not only acquire knowledge but also learn how to apply it in real-world scenarios, thus developing transferable skills that will support their broader educational journey.
3. **Personal Growth and Well-being:** Science is an excellent vehicle for developing essential life skills such as resilience, teamwork, and self-confidence. Our curriculum places a strong emphasis on fostering a sense of achievement and building mental well-being. Science lessons encourage pupils to persevere through challenges, collaborate with peers, and reflect on their progress. We

create an environment where pupils feel safe to ask questions, take risks, and learn from their mistakes, helping to rebuild their self-esteem and trust in the educational process.

Our science curriculum is designed to inspire pupils to ask questions, seek answers, and see themselves as capable scientists. By fostering a sense of wonder and curiosity, we aim to re-engage pupils in their learning, encourage them to think critically, and equip them with the skills and knowledge to succeed both academically and in a focus on well-being.

We support each pupil to ASPIRE to their potential, achieve 'PERSONAL EXCELLENCE' and EXCEED their expectations.

PRIDE, ACHIEVE, RESPECT, KINDNESS