MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SUMMARY OF PRIMARY SCIENCE CURRICULUM

Rationale

Science is a study of the biological and physical environment. The processes of Science involve gathering objective evidence, analysis, developing inferences, drawing conclusions and making predictions. Science education allows students to develop creativity both individually and collaboratively. It enables students to explore and understand the environment as well as participate in discussions concerning the environment.

Goals

The Science Curriculum will

- Stimulate curiosity and creativity
- Develop competence in the use of knowledge and scientific method
- Develop a critical awareness of the role of science in everyday living

The **content** is arranged around six strands:

1. Living Things
2. Ecosystems
3. Matter and Materials
4. Structure and Mechanisms
5. Energy
6. Earth and Space.

Teaching Strategies

Teachers are encouraged to use the **constructivist approach** to teaching science. Constructivism is an approach which focuses on the central role that learners' mental schemata play in cognitive growth. This is characterized by active engagement in learning, collaborative or cooperative learning and hands-on activities.

Teachers must therefore structure lessons to challenge students' suppositions and let students work through the task collaboratively. They should plan lessons around big ideas use open-ended questions and make the curriculum relevant to their needs.

Assessment in Science

Teachers are encouraged to use a balanced approach to assessment. Both formative and summative strategies: that is assessment ***of*** learning and assessment ***for*** learning are used. Teachers assess what students know, understand, and are able to do. Assessment should be ongoing and target both the content and the skills that are taught in the curriculum.