Working Scientifically Skills Progression

EYFS

While children are playing and exploring, teachers should be modelling, encouraging and supporting them to do the following:

• show curiosity and ask questions • make observations using their senses and simple equipment • make direct comparisons • use equipment to measure • record their observations by drawing, taking photographs, using sorting rings or boxes and, in Reception, on simple tick sheets • use their observations to help them to answer their questions • talk about what they are doing and have found out • identify, sort and group.

Year 1 and 2

KS1 Statutory requirements from NC.

During years 1 and 2, pupils should be taught to use the following practical scientific methods, processes and skills through the teaching of the programme of study content: • asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways • observing closely, using simple equipment • performing simple tests • identifying and classifying • using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions • gathering and recording data to help in answering questions.

Year 3 and 4

Lower KS2 Statutory requirements from NC.

During years 3 and 4, pupils should be taught to use the following practical scientific methods, processes and skills through the teaching of the programme of study content: • asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them • setting up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests • making systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, taking accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers • gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions. recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables • reporting on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions • using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions • identifying differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes • using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings.

Year 5 and 6

Upper KS2 Statutory requirements from NC.

During years 5 and 6, pupils should be taught to use the following practical scientific methods, processes and skills through the teaching of the programme of study content: • planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary • taking measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision, taking repeat readings when appropriate • recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs. • using test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests • reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of and degree of trust in results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations • identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Asking and answering questions	Use everyday language/begin to use simple scientific words to ask or answer a scientific question.	Suggest ideas, ask simple questions and know that they can be answered/investigated in different ways including simple secondary sources, such as books and video clips.	Use ideas to pose questions, independently, about the world around them.	Suggest relevant questions and know that they could be answered in a variety of ways, including using secondary sources such as ICT. Answer questions using straight forward scientific evidence.	Raise different types of scientific questions, and hypotheses.	Pose/select the most appropriate line of enquiry to investigate scientific questions.
Making predictions	Begin to say what might happen in an investigation.	Begin to make predictions.	Make predictions and begin to give a reason.	Make predictions and give a reason using simple scientific vocabulary.	Make predictions and give a reason using scientific vocabulary.	Make predictions and give a reason using scientific vocabulary. Base predictions on findings from previous investigations.
Making observations	Observe objects, materials and living things and describe what they see.	Observe something closely and describe changes over time.	Make decisions about what to observe during an investigation.	Make systematic and careful observations.	Plan and carry out comparative and fair tests, making systematic and careful observations.	Make their own decisions about which observations to make, using test results and observations to make predictions or set up further comparative or fair tests.

Equipment and measurements	Use simple, nonstandard equipment and measurements in a practical task.	Use simple equipment, such as hand lenses or egg timers to take measurements, make observations and carry out simple tests.	Take accurate measurements using standard units.	Take accurate measurements using standard units and a range of equipment, including thermometers and data loggers.	Take measurements using a range of scientific equipment with increasing accuracy and precision.	Choose the most appropriate equipment in order to take measurements, explaining how to use it accurately. Decide how long to take measurements for, checking Science Working Scientifically Skills Progression results with additional readings.
Identifying and classifying	Sort and group objects, materials and living things, with help, according to simple observational features.	Decide, with help, how to group materials, living things and objects, noticing changes over time and beginning to see patterns.	Talk about criteria for grouping, sorting and categorising, beginning to see patterns and relationships.	Identify similarities/differences/changes when talking about scientific processes. Use and begin to create simple keys.	Use and develop keys to identify, classify and describe living things and materials.	Identify and explain patterns seen in the natural environment.
Engage in practical enquiry (investigating)	Follow instructions to complete a simple test individually or in a group.	Do things in the correct order when performing a simple test and begin to recognise when something is unfair.	Discuss enquiry methods and describe a fair test.	Make decisions about different enquiries, including recognising when a fair test is necessary and begin to identify variables.	Plan a range of science enquiries, including comparative and fair tests.	Select and plan the most suitable line of enquiry, explaining which variables need to be controlled

						and why, in a variety of comparative and fair tests.
Recording and reporting findings	Begin to record simple data. Talk about their findings and explain what they have found out.	Gather data, record and talk about their findings, in a range of ways, using simple scientific vocabulary.	Record their findings using scientific language and present in note form, writing frames, diagrams, tables and charts.	Choose appropriate ways to record and present information, findings and conclusions for different audiences (e.g. displays, oral or written explanations).	Record data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams, labels, classification keys, tables, bar and line graphs and models.	Choose the most effective approach to record and report results, linking to mathematical knowledge.
Drawing conclusions	Explain, with help, what they think they have found out.	Use simple scientific language to explain what they have found out.	Draw, with help, a simple conclusion based on evidence from an enquiry or observation.	Use recorded data to make predictions, pose new questions and suggest improvements for further enquiries.	Use a simple mode of communication to justify their conclusions on a hypothesis. Begin to recognise how scientific ideas change over time.	Identify validity of conclusion and required improvement to methodology. Discuss how scientific ideas develop over time.
Analysing data **Evaluating and raising further questions and predictions**	Use every day or simple scientific language to ask and/or answer a question on given data.	Identify simple patterns and/or relationships using simple comparative language.	Gather, record and use data in a variety of ways to answer a simple question.	Identify, with help, changes, patterns, similarities and differences in data to help form conclusions. Use scientific evidence to support their findings.	Use relevant scientific language and illustrations to discuss, communicate and justify their scientific ideas.	Identify and explain causal relationships in data and identify evidence that supports or refutes their

						findings, selecting fact from opinion.

Working Scientifically Vocabulary		
Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
experience	develop	variables
observe	enquiry	evidence
changes	practical	justify
patterns	enquiry	accuracy
grouping	fair test	precision
sorting	comparative test	scatter graphs
classifying	relationships	bar graphs
compare	conclusion	line graphs
identify (name)	accurate	argument
data	thermometer	causal relationship
measure	data logger	
record	estimate	
equipment	data	
questions	diagram	
test	key	
investigate	table	
explore	chart	
magnifying glass / hand lens	bar chart	
same	results	
different	predictions	
	explanation	

	reason similarity difference question evidence information findings criteria values properties characteristics	