

Science Progression – Working Scientifically

Key Stage 1 National Curriculum Working Scientifically

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.

Lower Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Working Scientifically

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.

Upper Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Working Scientifically

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 a 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.