



Science skills progression

		F	2		
Children will begin to Children will also dev provided in continuo	e develop their scientifi relop how to predict w ous provision.	c skills by exploring and hat might happen next	observing and being a and give reasoning for	ble to talk about what their predictions base	t is happening. ed on experiences
		Κ	S1		
Enquiry	Observing changes over time	Comparative and fair tests	ldentifying and classifying	Looking for naturally occurring patterns and relationships	Researching using secondary sources
Demonstrate curiosity, e.g. ask why?' or 'how?' about the world around them.	Understand that we can gather information about the world through our senses.	When prompted, say what is happening/has happened to things or events.	Sort and match objects and living things in their own way.	Notice what has changed when observing things or events.	Use simple secondary sources, e.g. books, film, internet, to find information.
Understand the concept of 'a question'.	Understand that observation involves all of the senses.	With help, make changes and say what has changed.	Recognise similarities and differences.	Talk about what they have found out or what they think may happen.	Use information from secondary sources to help answer a question.
Be able to ask a question.	Use simple equipment provided, e.g. hand lenses, to make more accurate observations.	Be able to compare features of two objects.	Use simple observable features to compare objects or living things.	Begin to recognise links between observations and answers to questions.	Be able to record their findings in charts.
Be able to suggest one way of finding an answer to a question.	Recognise that some observable features may change over time, e.g. the size of a plant.	Be able to identify two variables in an investigation, e.g. water and light when investigating plant growth.	Be able to describe how they sorted objects.	With help, begin to notice patterns and relationships.	Gathering and recording data to help in answering questions.

Understand that	Observing closely,	Suggest a practical	Use	Begin to use simple	Make some
some questions can	using simple	way to find something	observable features of	scientific language	independent choices
be answered by	equipment.	out.	objects to identify	to talk about what	about appropriate
testing.			them.	they have found out.	ways to record data.
With help, identify	Use a range of	Be able to identify	Identifying and	Be able to	Select the best way of
evidence that can	equipment correctly	things to measure and	classifying.	communicate their	presenting information
be used to answer	to observe and	things to observe.		ideas to a range of	from a range of
questions.	measure.			audiences in a	options.
				variety of ways.	
Present evidence	Be able to select	Be able to set up a	Begin to classify and	Using their	
they have collected	appropriate	comparative test.	identify by linking	observations and	
in simple tables,	equipment to		observable features to	ideas to suggest	
charts or diagrams.	observe.		already known objects	answers to questions.	
			or things.		
Asking simple		Performing simple	Explain which	Use evidence to	
questions and		tests.	observable features	suggest answers	
recognising that they			have led them to	to questions and	
can be answered in			classify in a particular	make predictions.	
different ways.			way.		
Be able to suggest		Start to recognise		Say whether what	
more than one way		when a test is not fair		happened was what	
of finding an answer		and suggest		they expected.	
to a question, e.g. by		improvements.			
research, by testing.					
Suggest 'testable					
questions' that can					
be answered in					
classroom					
investigations.					

			LKS2			
Enquiry	Observing changes over time	Comparative and fair tests	Identifying and classifying	Looking for naturally occurring patterns and relationships	Recording and reporting findings	Researching using secondary sources
Be able to raise their own	Make observations	Suggest a practical way to	Use simple observable features	Recognise links between	Use notes, simple tables and	Use information from secondary
questions about the world around	about everyday phenomena.	find something out.	to compare objects or living things.	observations and answers to	standard units.	sources to help answer a question.
them.				questions.		

Be able to suggest one way of finding an answer to a question.	Decide what is important or relevant to observe.	Make decisions about which practical method is best to find something out.	Be able to group objects and living things in different ways.	Notice patterns and relationships.	Help to make decisions about how to record and analyse data.	Recognise when and how secondary sources might help answer questions that cannot be answered through practical investigations.
Understand that some questions may not be relevant to enquiries.	Make increasingly careful observations.	Be able to identify two variables in an investigation, e.g. water and light when investigating plant growth.	Talk about criteria for grouping, sorting and classifying.	Look for naturally occurring patterns and relationships and decide what data to collect to identify them.	Make independent choices about appropriate ways to record data.	
Be able to suggest more than one way of finding an answer to a question, e.g. by research, by testing.	Make systematic observations.	Be able to set up a comparative test.	Use observable features of objects to identify them.	Be able to collect data from their own observations and measurements.	Recording findings using simple scientific language, drawings, labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables.	
Suggest 'testable questions' that can be answered in classroom investigations.	Decide for how long to make observations.	Recognise when a simple fair test is necessary to answer a scientific question.	Use simple keys.	With help, look for changes, patterns, similarities and differences in their data.	Use relevant scientific language to discuss their ideas.	
Recognise alternative methods of scientific enquiry used to find answers to questions.	Use a range of equipment correctly to observe and measure.	Be able to identify variables to measure and variables to observe.	Begin to classify and identify by linking observable features to already known objects or things.	Use patterns in their data to draw simple conclusions and answer questions.	Communicate findings in ways that are appropriate to different audiences.	
Make own decisions about which method of enquiry is best to answer a question.	Be able to select appropriate equipment to observe and measure.	With others, help to set up a fair test.	Begin to classify by behavioural features, e.g. conducts electricity, is magnetic.	Use evidence to answer questions and make predictions.	Identify relevant evidence used to draw conclusions.	

Asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them.	Use new equipment such as dataloggers appropriately.	Start to recognise when a test is not fair and suggest improvements.	Explain which observable or behavioural features have led them to classify in a particular way.	Say whether what happened was what they expected.	Gathering, recording, classifying and presenting data in a variety of ways to help in answering questions.
Be able to refine a question.	Accurately use standard measures.	Setting up simple practical enquiries, comparative and fair tests.	Identifying differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas or processes.	With support, identify new questions arising from the data.	Using straightforward scientific evidence to answer questions or to support their findings.
Draw simple conclusions and talk about what they have found out using some scientific language.	Making systematic and careful observations and, where appropriate, taking accurate measurements using standard units, using a range of equipment, including thermometers and dataloggers.	Be able to develop features of a test to give a better outcome.	Be able, independently, to use simple databases or keys to identify or classify living things, objects or events.	Make predictions for new values within or beyond the data they have collected.	Use scientific language and facts to describe processes and what they have observed.
Draw simple conclusions and write about what they have found out using some scientific language.	Use an increasing range of standard measures accurately.			Find ways of improving what they have already done.	Explain findings reported and recorded using more complex scientific language.
Use relevant scientific language to	Explain why particular equipment chosen is			Link results to their own experiences.	

discuss their	appropriate to			
ideas.	the task.			
Use relevant			Using results to draw	
scientific			simple	
language to			conclusions, make	
communicate			predictions for new	
their findings.			values suggest	
Jan Sen Maria Ser			improvements and	
			raise further	
			auestions.	
Communicate	1		Recognise when a	
their ideas in			result	
ways that are			seems unusual whe	
appropriate for			n compared with	
different			other values	
audiences				
Use a variety of	-		Identify when	
written			repeated results are	
communication			necessary	
methods e a			necessary.	
auides kevs				
drawings and				
other nictorial				
which are				
suggested to				
them				
Choose their own	-			
way of				
communicating				
ideas to different				
audiences.				
Reporting on				
findings from				
enquiries.				
including oral				
and written				
explanations,				
displays or				
presentations of				
results and				
conclusions.				

			UKS2			
Enquiry	Observing changes over time	Comparative and fair tests	Identifying and classifying	Looking for naturally occurring patterns and relationships	Recording and reporting findings	Researching using secondary sources
Explore and talk about their own ideas.	Make their own decisions about what observations to make, what measurements to use and for how long to make them, and whether to repeat them.	Select and plan the most appropriate type of scientific enquiry to use to answer scientific questions.	Be able, independently, to use simple databases or keys to identify or classify living things, objects or events.	Identify patterns that might be found in the natural environment.	Decide how to record data from a choice of familiar approaches.	Recognise which secondary sources will be most useful to research their ideas and begin to separate opinion from fact.
Ask pertinent questions.	Choose the most appropriate equipment to make measurements and explain how to use it accurately.	Recognise when and how to set up comparative and fair tests and explain which variables need to be controlled and why.	Be able to discuss reasons why living things are placed in one group and not another.	Systematically investigate the relationship between phenomena, e.g. light and shadows.	Use relevant scientific language and illustrations to discuss, communicate and justify their scientific ideas and talk about how scientific ideas have developed over time.	Use secondary sources, e.g. internet links to research objects, events and phenomena that cannot be experienced in the classroom, e.g. planetary movements, animals from around the world.
Explore ideas and raise.	Recognise that some measurements or observations may need to be repeated.	Be able to state clearly which is the change variable and which is the measurement variable in a fair test.	Suggest reasons for similarities and differences.	Look for different causal relationships in their data and identify evidence that refutes or supports their ideas.	Decide on the most appropriate method to present findings graphically, e.g. using a line graph or bar chart for different types of data.	Gather and record data to help in answering questions.

Explore ideas and	Repeat	Systematically	Begin to	Analyse functions,	Justify what type	
raise	observations or	identify the effect	understand that	relationships and	of presentation is	
different kinds of	measurements	of changing one	broad groupings,	interactions more	appropriate to	
questions about	appropriately.	variable at a time.	such as	systematically.	use.	
scientific			micro-organisms,			
phenomena			plants and animals			
			can be subdivided.			
Refine a scientific	Be able to select	Recognise that	Identify the positive	Find out about how	Explain findinas	1
auestion so that it	appropriate	some	aspects and	scientific ideas	using data to	
can be tested.	ranges or intervals	variables may	limitations of some	have changed and	identify causal	
	of measurements	be more	forms of	developed over	relationships	
		significant than	classification	time as new		
		others in		evidence is		
		investigations		discovered e d		
				ideas about the		
				solar system		
Understand that	Evolain how	Po able to justify	lka and davalan	Bocognico when	Pocording data	•
	explaintion	their choice of	Use and develop			
	repeating				in a results of	
questions cannot	measurements	method as being	information records	an idea or not.	increasing	
be answered by	impacts on data	appropriate to	to identity, classify			
a particular	collection.	answer their	and describe living			
investigation.		investigative	things and		diagrams and	
		question.	materials.		labels,	
					classification	
					keys, tables,	
					scatter graphs,	
					bar and line	
					graphs.	
Be able to	Recognise when	Be able to use	Create more	Be able to identify	Reporting and	
suggest changes	measurements or	their results to	complex forms of	and offer	presenting	
to questions	data are	identify when	classification tools,	explanations for	findings from	
following	unreliable and be	further tests and	e.g. databases,	anomalous results.	enquiries,	
collection/analysi	able to take steps	observations might	branching keys.		including	
s of data.	to improve this.	be needed.			conclusions,	
					causal	
					relationships and	
					explanations of	
					and dearee of	
					trust in results, in	
					oral and written	
					forms such as	
					displays and	

					other presentations.
Understand a range of enquiries can be used together to explore an answer to a question.	Taking measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy.	Compare their own results with others' and suggest reasons why there may be differences.	Create and use a variety of sources to identify and classify living things, objects and phenomena.	Identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.	
Recognise key aspects of a scientific question.		Recognise the limitations of tests.			
		Planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions			
		including recognising and controlling variables where			
		necessary. Using test results to make predictions			
		comparative and fair tests.			