

Science – Progression of Key Concepts and National Curriculum Theme coverage



Over-arching Aims of the Science Curriculum

Our curriculum for Science aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them
- are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.

Year	1	2	3	4	5	6
All -encompassing	Similarities and	Similarities and	Similarities and	Similarities and	Similarities and	Similarities and
Concepts	differences	differences	differences	differences	differences	differences
	Diversity	Diversity	Diversity	Diversity	Diversity	Diversity
	Man-made/natural	Innovation	Innovation	Innovation	Innovation	Innovation
		Environment	Environment	Technological	Technological	Technological
				development	Developments	Developments
					Exploration	Exploration
					Environment	Environment
					Climate	Climate
					Extinction	Extinction
					Endangered	Endangered
					Sustainability	Legacy
						Sustainability
Theme Specific	Plants	Plants	Plants	Animals including	Animals including	Animals including
Concepts	Animals including	Animals including	Animals including	Humans	Humans	Humans
	Humans	Humans	Humans	States of matter	Living things and their	Living things and their
	Seasonal Changes	Living things and their	Rocks	Electricity	habitats	habitats
	Everyday Materials	habitats	Forces and Magnets	Sound	Properties and	Evolution and
		Everyday Materials	Light		changes of materials	inheritance
					Forces	Electricity
					Earth and Space	Sound
NC Knowledge	Plants	Plants	Plants			

identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees, identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.	observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.	identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant investigate the way in which water is transported within plants explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.			
Animals incl humans identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals identify and name a variety of common	Animals incl humans notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults find out about and describe the basic needs of animals,	Animals incl humans identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they	Animals incl humans describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans identify the different types of teeth in humans and their	Animals incl humans Pupils should be taught to: describe the changes as humans develop to old age.	Animals incl humans Pupils should be taught to: identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the

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animals that are	including humans, for	get nutrition from	simple functions		heart, blood vessels
carnivores, herbivores	survival (water, food	what they eat	construct and		and blood
and omnivores	and air)	identify that humans	interpret a variety of		recognise the impact
Science – key stages 1	describe the	and some other	food chains,		of diet, exercise,
and 2 8 Statutory	importance for	animals have	identifying producers,		drugs and lifestyle on
requirements	humans of exercise,	skeletons and muscles	predators and prey.		the way their bodies
describe and compare	eating the right	for support,			function
the structure of a	amounts of different	protection and			describe the ways in
variety of common	types of food, and	movement.			which nutrients and
animals (fish,	hygiene.				water are transported
amphibians, reptiles,					within animals,
birds and mammals,					including humans.
including pets)					
identify, name, draw					
and label the basic					
parts of the human					
body and say which					
part of the body is					
associated with each					
sense.					
Seasonal Changes	Living things and			Living things and	Living things and
observe changes	habitats			their habitats	their habitats
across the four	explore and compare			describe the	describe how living
seasons	the differences			differences in the life	things are classified
observe and describe	between things that			cycles of a mammal,	into broad groups
weather associated	are living, dead, and			an amphibian, an	according to common
with the seasons and	things that have never			insect and a bird	observable
how day length varies.	been alive			describe the life	characteristics and
, ,	identify that most			process of	based on similarities
	living things live in			reproduction in some	and differences,
	habitats to which they			plants and animals.	including micro-
	are suited and			•	organisms, plants and
	describe how				animals
	different habitats				give reasons for
	provide for the basic				classifying plants and
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Everyday materials	needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including micro-habitats describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food. Everyday materials	Rocks	States of matter	Properties and	animals based on specific characteristics. Evolution and Inheritance recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are
distinguish between an object and the	identify and compare the suitability of a	compare and group together different	compare and group materials together,	changes of materials compare and group	not identical to their parents
material from which it	variety of everyday	kinds of rocks on the	according to whether	together everyday	identify how animals
is made	materials, including	basis of their	they are solids, liquids	materials on the basis	and plants are
identify and name a	wood, metal, plastic,	appearance and	or gases	of their properties,	adapted to suit their
variety of /3everyday	glass, brick, rock,	simple physical	observe that some	including their	environment in
materials, including	paper and cardboard	properties	materials change	hardness, solubility,	different ways and
wood, plastic, glass,	for particular uses	describe in simple	state when they are	transparency,	that adaptation may
metal, water, and	find out how the	terms how fossils are	heated or cooled, and	conductivity	lead to evolution.
rock	shapes of solid	formed when things	measure or research	(electrical and	
describe the simple	objects made from	that have lived are	the temperature at	thermal), and	
physical properties of	some materials can be	trapped within rock	which this happens in	response to magnets	
a variety of everyday	changed by	recognise that soils	degrees Celsius (°C)	know that some	
materials	squashing, bending,	are made from rocks	identify the part	materials will dissolve	
compare and group	twisting and	and organic matter.	played by evaporation	in liquid to form a	
together a variety of	stretching.		and condensation in	solution, and describe	

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everyday materia		the water cycle and	how to recover a	
the basis of their		associate the rate of	substance from a	
simple physical		evaporation with	solution	
properties.		temperature.	use knowledge of	
			solids, liquids and	
			gases to decide how	
			mixtures might be	
			separated, including	
			through filtering,	
			sieving and	
			evaporating	
			give reasons, based	
			on evidence from	
			comparative and fair	
			tests, for the	
			particular uses of	
			everyday materials,	
			including metals,	
			wood and plastic	
			demonstrate that	
			dissolving, mixing and	
			changes of state are	
			reversible changes	
			explain that some	
			changes result in the	
			formation of new	
			materials, and that	
			this kind of change is	
			not usually reversible,	
			including changes	
			associated with	
			burning and the	
			action of acid on	
			bicarbonate of soda.	
	Forces and magnets	Electricity	Forces	Electricity

	compare how things move on different surfaces notice that some forces need contact between two objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet, and identify some magnetic materials describe magnets as having two poles predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.	identify common appliances that run on electricity construct a simple series electrical circuit, identifying and naming its basic parts, including cells, wires, bulbs, switches and buzzers identify whether or not a lamp will light in a simple series circuit, based on whether or not the lamp is part of a complete loop with a battery recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit and associate this with whether or not a lamp lights in a simple series circuit recognise some common conductors and insulators, and associate metals with	explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction, that act between moving surfaces recognise that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.	associate the brightness of a lamp or the volume of a buzzer with the number and voltage of cells used in the circuit compare and give reasons for variations in how components function, including the brightness of bulbs, the loudness of buzzers and the on/off position of switches use recognised symbols when representing a simple circuit in a diagram.
	poles are facing.	associate metals with being good conductors.		
	recognise that they need light in order to see things and that	Sound identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with	Earth and Space describe the movement of the Earth, and other	Light recognise that light appears to travel in straight line

Scientific knowledge and conceptual	 when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change. scribe a sequence of knowledge and concept secure understanding of each key block of light source is blocked.	produced it recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.		-
	dark is the absence of light notice that light is reflected from surfaces recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes recognise that shadows are formed	something vibrating recognise that vibrations from sounds travel through a medium to the ear find patterns between the pitch of a sound and features of the object that produced it find patterns between the volume of a sound and the attention of a sound and the attention of the sound are defined in the sound are defined as a sound as a sound as a sound as a sound are defined as a sound as a so	planets, relative to the Sun in the solar system describe the movement of the Moon relative to the Earth describe the Sun, Earth and Moon as approximately spherical bodies use the idea of the	use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye. Explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to

maximise their pupils' engagement with and motivation to study science.

knowledge to their understanding of science, including collecting, presenting and analysing data. The social and economic implications of science are important but, generally, they are taught most appropriately within the wider school curriculum: teachers will wish to use different contexts to

Spoken language

The national curriculum for science reflects the importance of spoken language in pupils' development across the whole curriculum – cognitively, socially and linguistically. The quality and variety of language that pupils hear and speak are key factors in developing their scientific vocabulary and articulating scientific concepts clearly and precisely. They must be assisted in making their thinking clear, both to themselves and others, and teachers should ensure that pupils build secure foundations by using discussion to probe and remedy their misconceptions.

Working Scientifically

Working Scientifically at KS1

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.

Working Scientifically in Lower Key Stage 2:

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

Working Scientifically in Upper Key Stage 2: 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

			 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. 		arguments.	
Links to other subjects	History Geography DT	History Geography DT	History Geography DT PE	History Geography DT Art Music	History Geography DT PSHE Music Art	History Geography DT PSHE PE Art
Links to capabilities						
Links to literacy texts						
Enrichment opportunities	Seasonal Cooking		Cornish Mine	Cooking Viking Feast Eden Project	Camping trip – nutritional feast	Electrical Toy making/show

Year group specific skills progression, s-plans, theme concepts and vocabulary mats should be used in planning to teach these themes and create knowledge organisers and quizzes.