

Glenthorne Community Primary School
Progression of Enquiry Skills

National Curriculum

'Working scientifically' is described separately in the programme of study, but must always be taught through and clearly related to the teaching of substantive science content in the programme of study. Throughout the notes and guidance, examples show how scientific methods and skills might be linked to specific elements of the content.

What should Working Scientifically look like across primary science?

KSI	LKS2	UKS2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

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	<p>labelled diagrams, keys, bar charts, and tables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
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Non-Statutory Guidance

KSI

- Pupils in years 1 and 2 should explore the world around them and raise their own questions. They should experience different types of scientific enquiries, including practical activities, and begin to recognise ways in which they might answer scientific questions.
- They should use simple features to compare objects, materials and living things and, with help, decide how to sort and group them, observe changes over time, and, with guidance, they should begin to notice patterns and relationships.

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- They should ask people questions and use simple secondary sources to find answers.
- They should use simple measurements and equipment (for example, hand lenses, egg timers) to gather data, carry out simple tests, record simple data, and talk about what they have found out and how they found it out. With help, they should record and communicate their findings in a range of ways and begin to use simple scientific language.
- These opportunities for working scientifically should be provided across years 1 and 2 so that the expectations in the programme of study can be met by the end of year 2. Pupils are not expected to cover each aspect for every area of study.

LKS2

- Pupils in years 3 and 4 should be given a range of scientific experiences to enable them to raise their own questions about the world around them. They should start to make their own decisions about the most appropriate type of scientific enquiry they might use to answer questions; recognise when a simple fair test is necessary and help to decide how to set it up; talk about criteria for grouping, sorting and classifying; and use simple keys. They should begin to look for naturally occurring patterns and relationships and decide what data to collect to identify them. They should help to make decisions about what observations to make, how long to make them for and the type of simple equipment that might be used. They should learn how to use new equipment, such as data loggers, appropriately. They should collect data from their own observations and measurements, using notes, simple tables and standard units, and help to make decisions about how to record and analyse this data.
- With help, pupils should look for changes, patterns, similarities and differences in their data in order to draw simple conclusions and answer questions. With support, they should identify new questions arising from the data, making predictions for new values within or beyond the data they have collected, and finding ways of improving what they have already done. They should also recognise when and how secondary sources might help them to answer questions that cannot be answered through practical investigations.

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- Pupils should use relevant scientific language to discuss their ideas and communicate their findings in ways that are appropriate for different audiences.
- These opportunities for working scientifically should be provided across years 3 and 4 so that the expectations in the programme of study can be met by the end of year 4. Pupils are not expected to cover each aspect for every area of study.

UKS2

- Pupils in years 5 and 6 should use their science experiences to: explore ideas and raise different kinds of questions; select and plan the most appropriate type of scientific enquiry to use to answer scientific questions; recognise when and how to set up comparative and fair tests and explain which variables need to be controlled and why. They should use and develop keys and other information records to identify, classify and describe living things and materials, and identify patterns that might be found in the natural environment.
- They should make their own decisions about what observations to make, what measurements to use and how long to make them for, and whether to repeat them; choose the most appropriate equipment to make measurements and explain how to use it accurately. They should decide how to record data from a choice of familiar approaches; look for different causal relationships in their data and identify evidence that refutes or supports their ideas. They should use their results to identify when further tests and observations might be needed; recognise which secondary sources will be most useful to research their ideas and begin to separate opinion from fact.
- They should use relevant scientific language and illustrations to discuss, communicate and justify their scientific ideas and should talk about how scientific ideas have developed over time.
- These opportunities for working scientifically should be provided across years 5 and 6 so that the expectations in the programme of study can be met by the end of year 6. Pupils are not expected to cover each aspect for every area of study.

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The EYFS framework is structured very differently to the national curriculum as it is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas. The aim of this document is to help subject leaders to understand how the skills taught across EYFS feed into national curriculum subjects.

This document demonstrates which statements from the 2020 Development Matters are prerequisite skills for science within the national curriculum. The table below outlines the most relevant statements taken from the Early Learning Goals in the EYFS statutory framework and the Development Matters age ranges for Three and Four-Year-Olds and Reception to match the programme of study for science.

The most relevant statements for science are taken from the following areas of learning:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Understanding the World

Science in Early Years		
Three and four-year-olds	Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?"
	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and toothbrushing.
	Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.• Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.• Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.• Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history.• Explore how things work.• Plant seeds and care for growing plants.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal. • Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. • Explore and talk about different forces they can feel. • Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice.
Reception	Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn new vocabulary. • Ask questions to find out more and to check what has been said to them. • Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences. • Describe events in some detail. • Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities, and to explain how things work and why they might happen. • Use new vocabulary in different contexts.
	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -regular physical activity -healthy eating -toothbrushing -sensible amounts of 'screen time' -having a good sleep routine -being a safe pedestrian
	Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the natural world around them. • Describe what they see, hear and feel while they are outside.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live.• Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.
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Below is a table showing the progression of working scientifically skills through the key stages and across the five types of science enquiry.

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KS1	To ask scientific questions	To plan an enquiry	To observe closely	To take measurements	To gather/record results	To present results	To interpret results	To draw conclusions	To make a prediction	To evaluate an enquiry
Classifying	Be able to ask a Yes/No questions to aid sorting	Identify the headings for the two groups (it is, it is not)	Be able to compare objects based on obvious, observable features e.g. size, shape, colour, texture etc.			Sort objects and living things into two group using a basic Venn diagram or simple table	Talk about the number of objects in each group i.e. which has more or less	Children in KS1 are not expected to draw conclusions. They are expected to make observations which will help them to answer questions. They do not have the subject knowledge to give reasons for what they observe so they cannot draw scientific conclusions.	Children in KS1 are not expected to make scientific predictions as they do not have the subject knowledge to do this. That does not mean that you should not ask children what they think may happen, but this will be based on experience or may simply be a guess.	Children in KS1 are not expected to evaluate. However, children should be encouraged to consider their method and adapt this where necessary.
Researching	Ask one or two simple questions linked to a topic					Present what they have learnt verbally or using pictures	Be able to answer their questions using simple sentences			
Comparative/fair testing	Identify the question to investigate from a scenario or choose a question from a range provided	Choose equipment to use and decide what to do and what to observe or measure in order to answer the question	Make observations linked to answering the question	When appropriate, measure using standard units where all the numbers are marked on the scale	Record data in simple prepared tables, pictorially or by taking photographs	Present what they learnt verbally, using pictures or block diagrams	Answer their question in simple sentences using their observations or measurements			
Observing over time	Ask a question about what might happen in the future based on an observation				Record data in simple prepared tables, pictorially or by taking photographs	Present what they learnt verbally or using pictures				
Pattern seeking	Ask a question that is looking for a pattern based on observations				Record data in simple, prepared tables and tally charts	Present what they learnt verbally				

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LKS2	To ask scientific questions	To plan an enquiry	To observe closely	To take measurements	To gather/record results	To present results	To interpret results	To draw conclusions	To make a prediction	To evaluate an enquiry
Classifying	Be able to ask a range of Yes/No questions to aid sorting	Be able to put appropriate headings onto intersecting Venn and Carroll diagrams	Be able to compare objects based on more sophisticated, observable features. Present observations in labelled diagrams.			Sort objects and living things into groups using intersecting Venn and Carroll diagrams	Spot patterns in the data particularly two criteria with no examples e.g. there are no living things with wings and no legs	Draw simple conclusions, when appropriate, for patterns e.g. a flying insect with no legs might always crash land		Suggest improvement e.g. a wider range of objects – only looked at British trees. Suggest new questions arising from the investigation.
Researching	Ask a range of questions linked to a topic	Choose a source from a range provided				Present what they learnt verbally or using labelled diagrams	Be able to answer their questions using simple scientific language			Suggest limitations e.g. only had one book. Suggest new questions arising from the investigation.
Comparative/fair testing		Decide what to change and what to measure or observe	As for KS1	Measure using standard units where not all the numbers are marked on the scale, and take repeat readings where necessary	Prepare own tables to record data	Present data in bar charts	Refer directly to their evidence when answering their question	Where appropriate provide oral or written explanations for their findings	Use results from an investigation to make a prediction about a further result	Suggest improvements e.g. to method of taking measurements. Suggest new questions arising from the investigation.
Observing over time		Decide what to measure or observe. Decide how often to take a measurement.	Make a range of relevant observations	Measure using standard units where not all the numbers are marked on the scale. Use dataloggers to measure over time.		Present data in time graphs				
Pattern seeking		Decide what to measure or observe	As for KS1	Measure using standard units where not all the numbers are marked on the scale.		Use ICT package to present data as a scattergram				

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UKS2	To ask scientific questions	To plan an enquiry	To observe closely	To take measurements	To gather/record results	To present results	To interpret results	To draw conclusions	To make a prediction	To evaluate an enquiry
Classifying	Be able to ask a range of Yes/No questions to aid sorting and decide which ways of sorting will give useful information	Identify specific clear questions that will help to sort without ambiguity	Be able to compare not only based on physical properties but also on knowledge gained through previous enquiry			Create branching databases (tree diagrams) and keys to enable others to name living things and objects	Be able to talk about the features that objects and living things share and do not share based on the information in the key etc.	Be able to use data to show that living things and materials that are grouped together have more things in common than with things in other groups		Be able to explain using evidence that the branching database or classification key will only work for the living things or materials it was created for
Researching	Ask a range of questions recognising that some can be answered through research and others may not	Choose suitable sources to use				Present what they learnt in a range of ways e.g. different graphic organisers	Be able to answer their questions using scientific evidence gained from a range of sources			Be able to talk about their degree of trust in the sources they used
Comparative/fair testing	Ask a range of questions and identify the type of enquiry that will help to answer the questions. Ask further questions based on results.	Recognise and control variables where necessary	As for KS1	Measure using standard units using equipment that has scales involving decimals	Prepare own tables to record data, including columns for taking repeat readings	Choose an appropriate form of presentation, including line graphs	Be able to answer their question, describing causal relationships	Provide oral or written explanations for their findings	Use test results to make predictions for further investigations	Explain their degree of trust in their results e.g. precision in taking measurements, variables that may not have been controlled, and accuracy of results
Observing over time					As for LKS2		Be able to answer their questions, describing the change over time			
Pattern seeking						Choose an appropriate form of presentation, including scatter graphs	Be able to answer their questions identifying patterns			