



Upper key stage 2 programme of study

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

Notes and guidance (non-statutory)

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.

Asking Questions	Observing and measuring
Planning and setting up different types of enquiries	Identifying and classifying
Performing tests	Gathering and recording data
Using equipment	Reporting, presenting and communicating data/findings

Use their science experiences to explore ideas and raise different kinds of questions	I ask different kinds of questions
Recognise when and how secondary sources might help them to answer questions that cannot be answered through practical investigations	I ask my own questions—I use different ways to answer them
Make their own decisions about what observations to make, what measurements to use and how long to make them for	I use different scientific equipment to measure with precision. I take repeat readings when appropriate
Look for different causal relationships in their data and identify evidence that refutes or supports their ideas	I decide what observations and measurements to make
Talk about how scientific ideas have developed over time	I plan different types of enquiries to answer questions
Select and plan the most appropriate type of scientific enquiry to use to answer scientific questions	I plan different types of enquiries to answer questions
Recognise when and how to set up comparative and fair tests and explain which variables need to be controlled and why	I can set up fair tests when necessary
Choose the most appropriate equipment to make measurements with increasing precision and explain how to use it accurately. Take repeat measurements where appropriate.	I use different scientific equipment to measure with precision. I take repeat readings when appropriate
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	I decide how to record data and results. I can use scientific diagrams, labels, classification, keys, tables, scatter, bar and line graphs
Decide how to record data and results of increasing complexity from a choice of familiar approaches: scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs	I decide how to record data and results. I can use scientific diagrams, labels, classification, keys, table, scatter, bar and line graphs
Identify scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments	I report and present findings using speaking and writing including displays and presentations
Use relevant scientific language and illustrations to discuss, communicate and justify their scientific ideas, use oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations to report conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of degree of trust in results	I use relevant scientific language and illustrations
Use their results to make predictions and identify when further observations, comparative and fair tests might be needed	I use results to make predictions and set up more tests (including fair tests)