



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Progression in working scientifically skills



Early Years Foundation Stage	Key Stage 1 Year 1 & 2	Lower Key Stage 2 Year 3 & 4	Upper Key Stage 2 Year 5 & 6
Asking questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways			
In the EYFS, the characteristics of effective learning from the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage are the foundations on which the working scientifically skills build in Key Stage 1. While children are playing and exploring, teachers should be modelling, encouraging and supporting them to do the following: • show curiosity and ask questions • make observations using their senses and simple equipment • make direct comparisons • use equipment to measure • record their observations by drawing, taking photographs, using sorting rings or boxes and, in Reception, on simple tick sheets • use their observations to help them to answer their questions • talk about what they are doing and have found out • identify, sort and group.	Asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways • While exploring the world, the children develop their ability to ask questions (such as what something is, how things are similar and different, the ways things work, which alternative is better, how things change and how they happen). Where appropriate, they answer these questions. • The children answer questions developed with the teacher often through a scenario. • The children are involved in planning how to use resources provided to answer the questions using different types of enquiry, helping them to recognise that there are different ways in which questions can be answered.	Asking relevant questions and using different types of scientific enquiries to answer them • The children consider their prior knowledge when asking questions. They independently use a range of question stems. Where appropriate, they answer these questions. • The children answer questions posed by the teacher. • Given a range of resources, the children decide for themselves how to gather evidence to answer the question. They recognise when secondary sources can be used to answer questions that cannot be answered through practical work. They identify the type of enquiry that they have chosen to answer their question.	Planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary • Children independently ask scientific questions. This may be stimulated by a scientific experience or involve asking further questions based on their developed understanding following an enquiry. • Given a wide range of resources the children decide for themselves how to gather evidence to answer a scientific question. They choose a type of enquiry to carry out and justify their choice. They recognise how secondary sources can be used to answer questions that cannot be answered through practical work.

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Making observations and taking measurements			
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Engaging in practical enquiry to answer questions			
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Recording and presenting evidence			
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Answering questions and concluding			
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	Using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions •The children recognise 'biggest and smallest', 'best and worst' etc. from their data.	Identifying differences, similarities or changes related to simple scientific ideas and processes •Children interpret their data to generate simple comparative statements based on their evidence. They begin to identify naturally occurring patterns and causal relationships.	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 •In their conclusions, children: identify causal relationships and patterns in the natural world from their evidence; identify results that do not fit the overall pattern; and explain their findings using their subject knowledge.

		Using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions • They draw conclusions based on their evidence and current subject knowledge.	
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Evaluating and raising further questions and predictions			
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		Using results to draw simple conclusions, make predictions for new values, suggest improvements and raise further questions • Children use their evidence to suggest values for different items tested using the same method e.g. the distance travelled by a car on an additional surface. • Following a scientific experience, the children ask further questions which can be answered by extending the same enquiry.	Using test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests • Children use the scientific knowledge gained from enquiry work to make predictions they can investigate using comparative and fair tests.

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Communicating their findings			
While children are playing and exploring, teachers should be modelling, encouraging and supporting them to do the following: • make observations using their senses and simple equipment • make direct comparisons • use equipment to measure • use their observations to help them to answer their questions • talk about what they are doing and have found out • identify, sort and group.	With help, they should record and communicate their findings in a range of ways and begin to use simple scientific language	Reporting on findings from enquiries, including oral and written explanations, displays or presentations of results and conclusions • They communicate their findings to an audience both orally and in writing, using appropriate scientific vocabulary.	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 • They communicate their findings to an audience using relevant scientific language and illustrations.