



Vocabulary Progression: Science – working scientifically

The following represents the core vocabulary introduced in each year group but is not an exhaustive list and subject specific vocabulary will be introduced in-line with subject areas.

The following vocabulary is introduced in Reception

Science	A system of studying, testing and experimenting on things in nature
Experiment	A carefully planned test to answer something previously unknown
Fair	Not showing favour or giving advantage to one thing over another
Find out	To discover or learn something
Explain	To make something clear
Reason	The power to think clearly
Why	For what reason, purpose or cause
Change	To make different or alter something

The following vocabulary is introduced in Year 1 and Year 2

question	A matter which is in doubt or not certain
answer	The solution or response to a question
observe	To watch carefully
equipment	Things to be used for a particular activity
identify	To show who someone is or what something is
classify	To group or order in classes
sort	To place or separate into groups
diagram	A drawing or plan that shows the parts of something
chart	A sheet that gives information in the form of a graph or table
map	To lay out/follow carefully
data	Facts, figures or information that can be used to learn about something
compare	To note or describe the similarities and differences between two or more things
contrast	To compare in order to make differences clear

describe	To tell or what about something
biology	The science that studies the growth and life processes of living things
chemistry	The science that studies the form and function of basic elements
physics	The science that deals with matter and energy, their qualities and their relationship
group	A collection of people or things that are related by characteristics
record	To write or collect information
The following vocabulary is introduced in Year 3 & 4	
research	Careful study of something to find information
relevant questions	Questions that are related to what is being discussed
scientific enquiry	Asking or looking for scientific information
comparative	Something that involves comparisons
fair test	To carry out a test without showing favour or giving advantage to one side
systematic	Based on a method or plan
accurate measurements	The act of measuring something precisely
thermometer	An instrument for measuring temperature
data gather	To collect information that can be used to learn about something
labelled diagrams	A drawing or plan that includes writing to describe each part
keys	Used to identify different species
bar charts	Displays information using rectangular bars of different heights/lengths
oral	Spoken rather than written
written	To present information using writing on a page
explanations	The act or process of making something clear
conclusion	An opinion reached after careful consideration or process
predictions	Something that might happen or is expected to happen
differences	The condition of being different or not like something
similarities	The state or quality of being similar or sharing resemblance
changes	The act of making something different
evidence	Something that gives proof or reason to believe
improve	To make something better
primary sources	First hand account or record of something
secondary sources	Work that analyses or interprets something by using primary sources
The following vocabulary is introduced in Year 5 & 6	
plan	An action one intends to take to achieve something
variables	Something that is likely to change; it is not constant

<p>accurate measurements accuracy precision repeat readings record data scientific diagrams classification keys tables scatter graphs line graphs report and present conclusions causal relationships explanations degree of trust support ideas refute ideas patterns systematic measurements quantitative measurements</p>	<p>The act of measuring something precisely The condition of being accurate or precise The state of being exact or accurate Taking information from a measurement more than once over time To write or collect facts, figures or information that can be used to learn about something A drawing or plan that shows the parts of something related to science a set of questions about the characteristics of living things An organised set of information presented in rows and columns A diagram which shows the values of two or more different properties Points connected by a line to show how the value of something changes over time To give an account of findings or information When an occurrence to the first causes a change to the other The act or process of making something clear The extent to which something can be relied upon to be accurate To provide proof or evidence in favour of something To demonstrate a falseness or error in something Something that is repeated regularly To record measurements based on a plan or method Measuring something in the form of a quantity or amount</p>
<p>Note: where possible, definitions taken from observe Free On-Line English Dictionary Thesaurus Children's, Intermediate Dictionary Wordsmyth</p>	