Science Vocabulary Progression Map

This progression map shows the progression across the national curriculum's science programme of study requirements from year 1 to year 6. Statements here are taken directly from the programme of study and have been organised into topics.

Alongside the statements is the vocabulary progression. This details the required vocabulary that the children should understand throughout each topic and year group as a prerequisite for further learning. Vocabulary is not exclusive to each year group so it is not repeated on the grid in subsequent year groups for the same topic. For example, a year 2 child studying 'Animals including Humans' may use the vocabulary listed in the year 2 column as well as that in the year 1 column. Likewise, a year 6 child learning about 'Light' may use the year 3 vocabulary as well as the year 6. Where vocabulary may have already been encountered in a previous year group but in a different topic, this will be listed under 'Previously introduced vocabulary'. The vocabulary indicated in bold can also be found on the relevant Knowledge Organiser for each topic.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Animals Including Humans						
Plants						
Living Things and Their Habitats						
Evolution and Inheritance						
Seasonal Changes						
Forces			Forces and Magnets		Forces	
Light						
Sound						
Earth and Space						
Electricity						
Materials	Everyday Materials	Use of Everyday Materials	Rocks	States of Matter	Properties and Changes of Materials	

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Animals Including Humans	Pupils should be taught to: identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals; identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores; describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals 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.	Pupils should be taught to: notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults; find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air); describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.	Pupils should be taught to: identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat; identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.	Pupils should be taught to: describe the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system in humans; identify the different types of teeth in humans and their simple functions; construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.	Pupils should be taught to: • describe the changes as humans develop to old age.	Pupils should be taught to: identify and name the main parts of the human circulatory system, and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood; recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function; describe the ways in which nutrients and water are transported within animals, including humans.
Vocabulary Progression	 Names of animal groups: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals. Animal diets: carnivore, herbivore, omnivore. Human and animal body parts: e.g. body, head, neck, arms, elbows, legs, knees, face, ears, eyes, nose, hair, mouth, teeth, hands, feet, tail, wings, feathers, fur, beak, fins, gills. Human senses: sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste. Exploring senses: loud, quiet, soft, rough. Other: human, animal, pet. 	 Being born and growing: Young, offspring, live young, grow, develop, change, hatch, lay, fly, crawl, talk. Young and adult names: e.g. lamb and sheep, kitten and cat, duckling and duck. Life cycle stages: e.g. baby, toddler, child, teenager, adult; frogspawn, tadpole, froglet, frog. Survival and staying healthy: basic needs, survive, food, air, exercise, diet, nutrition, healthy, balanced diet, hygiene, germs. Food groups: fruit and vegetables, proteins, dairy and alternatives, carbohydrates, oil and spreads, fat, salt, sugar. Previously introduced vocabulary: water. 	Food groups and nutrients: fibre, fats (saturated and unsaturated), vitamins, minerals. Skeletons and muscles: skeleton, muscles, tendons, joints, protection, support, organs, voluntary muscles, involuntary muscles, biceps, triceps, contract, relax, bone, cartilage, shell, vertebrate, invertebrate, endoskeleton, exoskeleton, hydrostatic skeleton. Names of human bones: e.g. skull, spine, backbone, vertebral column, ribcage, pelvis, clavicle, scapula, humerus, ulna, pelvis, radius, femur, tibia, fibula. Other: energy. Previously introduced vocabulary: movement.	Digestive system: digest, digestion, tongue, teeth, saliva, salivary glands, oesophagus, stomach, liver, pancreas, gall bladder, small intestine, duodenum, large intestine, rectum, anus, faeces, organ. Types of teeth and dental care: molar, premolar, incisor, canine, wisdom teeth, tooth decay, plaque, enamel, baby (milk) teeth. Food chains and animal diets: decomposer, food web. Previously introduced vocabulary: producer, consumer, prey, predator, excretion, habitat.	Process of reproduction: gestation, asexual reproduction, sexual reproduction, sperm, egg, cells, clone. Changes and life cycle: embryo, foetus, uterus, prenatal, adolescence, puberty, menstruation, adulthood, menopause, life expectancy, old age, hormones, sweat. Changing body parts: e.g. breasts, penis, larynx, ovaries, genitalia, pubic hair. Previously introduced vocabulary: reproduction, reproduce, types of animals and animal groups, fertilisation.	Circulatory system: circulation, heart, pulse, heartbeat, heart rate, lungs, breathing, blood vessels, blood, pump, transported, oxygenated blood, oxygen, arteries, veins, capillaries, chambers, plasma, platelets, white blood cells, red blood cells. Lifestyle: drug, alcohol, smoking, disease, calorie, energy input, energy output. Other: water transportation, nutrient transportation, waste products. Previously introduced vocabulary: carbon dioxide.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Plants	Pupils should be taught to: · 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.	Pupils should be taught to: 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.	Pupils should be taught to: · 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.			
Vocabulary Progression	Names of common plants: wild plant, garden plant, evergreen tree, deciduous tree, common flowering plant, weed, grass. Name some features of plants: e.g. flower, vegetable, fruit, berry, leaf/leaves, blossom, petal, stem, trunk, branch, root, seed, bulb, soil. Name some common types of plant e.g. sunflower, daffodil.	Growth of plants: germination, shoot, seed dispersal, grow, food store, life cycle, die, wilt, seedling, sapling. Needs of plants: sunlight, nutrition, light, healthy, space, air. Name different types of plant: e.g. bean plant, cactus. Names of different habitats: e.g. rainforest, desert. Previously introduced vocabulary: water, temperature, warm, hot, cold, habitat.	Water transportation: transport, evaporation, evaporate, nutrients, absorb, anchor. Life cycle of flowering plants: pollination (insect/wind), pollen, nectar, pollinator, seed formation, seed dispersal (animal/wind/water), reproduce, fertilisation, fertilise, stamen, anther, filament, carpel (pistil), stigma, style, ovary, ovule, sepal, carbon dioxide. Previously introduced vocabulary: life cycle.			

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Living Things and Their Habitats		Pupils should be taught to: explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive; identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic 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 microhabitats; 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.		Pupils should be taught to: recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways; explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment; recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.	Pupils should be taught to: describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird; describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.	Pupils should be taught to: describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including micro-organisms, plants and animals; give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.
Vocabulary Progression		Living or dead: living, dead, never living, not living, alive, never been alive, healthy. Habitats including microhabitats: depend, shelter, safety, survive, suited, space, minibeast, air. Life processes: movement, sensitivity, growth, reproduction, nutrition, excretion, respiration. Food chains: food sources, food, producer, consumer, predator, prey. Names of habitats and microhabitats: e.g. under leaves, woodland, rainforest, sea shore, ocean, urban, local habitat. Previously introduced vocabulary: senses, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, seed, water, names of materials.		Living things: organisms, specimen, species. Grouping living things: classification, classification keys, classify, characteristics. Names of invertebrate animals: snails and slugs, worms, spiders, insects. Invertebrate body parts: e.g. wing case, abdomen, thorax, antenna, segments, mandible, proboscis, prolegs. Environmental changes: environmental dangers, adapt, natural changes, climate change, deforestation, pollution, urbanisation, invasive species, endangered species, extinct. Previously introduced vocabulary: carbon dioxide, fish, bird, mammal, amphibian, reptile, skeleton, bone, vertebrate, invertebrate, backbone, names for animal body parts, names of common plants, photosynthesis.	Reproduction: asexual reproduction, sexual reproduction, gestation, metamorphosis, gametes, tuber, runners/side branches, plantlet, cuttings, embryo, adolescent, penis, vagina, egg, pregnancy, gestation. Previously introduced vocabulary: life cycle, pollination, offspring, fertilise, fertilisation, sepal, filament, anther, stamen, pollen, petal, stigma, style, ovary, carpel, ovule, stem, bulb, roots, mammal, adult, baby, sperm, cells, live young.	Classifying: Carl Linnaeus, Linnaean system, flowering and non-flowering plants, variation. Microorganisms: bacteria, single-celled, microbes, microscopic, virus, fungi, fungus, mould, antibiotic, yeast, ferment, microscope, decompose.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Evolution and Inheritance						Pupils should be taught to: 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 not identical to their parents; identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.
Vocabulary Progression						Evolution and inheritance: evolve, adaptation, inherit, natural selection, adaptive traits, inherited traits, mutations, theory of evolution, ancestors, biological parent, chromosomes, genes, Charles Darwin. Other: selective breeding, artificial selection, breed, cross breeding, genetically modified food, cloning, DNA. Previously introduced vocabulary: classification, offspring, characteristics, habitat, environment, adapt, variations, human, fossil, suited, cells, names of different habitats, names of animals and their body parts, species, sedimentary rock, lava, igneous rock, metamorphic rock, magma, heat, fossilisation.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Seasonal Changes	Pupils should be taught to: observe changes across the 4 seasons; observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies.					
Vocabulary Progression	Seasons: spring, summer, autumn, winter, seasonal change. Weather: e.g. sun, rain, snow, sleet, frost, ice, fog, cloud, hot/warm, cold, storm, wind, thunder, weather forecast. Measuring weather: temperature, rainfall, wind direction, thermometer, rain gauge. Day length: night, day, daylight.					

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Forces			Forces and Magnets Pupils should be taught to: compare how things move on different surfaces; notice that some forces need contact between 2 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 2 poles; predict whether 2 magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.		Forces Pupils should be taught to: • 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.	
Vocabulary Progression			How things move: move, movement, surface, distance, strength. Types of forces: push, pull, contact force, non-contact force, friction. Magnets: magnetic, magnetic field, magnetic force, bar magnet, horseshoe magnet, ring magnet, magnetic poles (north pole, south pole), attract, repel, compass. Magnetic and non-magnetic materials: e.g. iron, nickel, cobalt. Previously introduced vocabulary: metal, names of materials.		Types of forces: air resistance, water resistance, buoyancy, upthrust, Earth's gravitational pull, gravity, opposing forces, driving force. Mechanisms: levers, pulleys, gears/cogs. Measurements: weight, mass, kilograms (kg), Newtons (N), scales, speed, fast, slow. Other: streamlined, Earth. Previously introduced vocabulary: air, heat, moon.	

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Light			Pupils should be taught to: recognise that they need light in order to see things and that 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 when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object; find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change.			Pupils should be taught to: recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines; 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 our eyes; use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.
Vocabulary Progression			Light and seeing: dark, absence of light, light source, illuminate, visible, shadow, translucent, energy, block. Light sources: e.g. candle, torch, fire, lantern, lightning. Reflective light: reflect, reflection, surface, ray, scatter, reverse, beam, angle, mirror, moon. Sun safety: dangerous, glare, damage, UV light, UV rating, sunglasses, direct. Previously introduced vocabulary: opaque, transparent, sunlight, sun.			Reflection: periscope. Seeing light: visible spectrum, prism. How light travels: light waves, wavelength, straight line, refraction. Previously introduced vocabulary: names and properties of materials, absorb.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
PunoS				Pupils should be taught to: · identify how sounds are made, associating some of them with 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 strength of the vibrations that produced it; · recognise that sounds get fainter as the distance from the sound source increases.		
Vocabulary Progression				 Parts of the ear: eardrum. Making sound: vibration, vocal cords, particles. Measuring sound: pitch, volume, amplitude, sound wave, quiet, loud, high, low, travel, distance. Other: soundproof, absorb sound. 		

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Earth and Space					Pupils should be taught to: describe the movement of the Earth and other 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 Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky.	
Vocabulary Progression					Solar system: star, planet. Names of planets: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus. Shape: spherical bodies, sphere. Movement: rotate, axis, orbit, satellite. Theories: geocentric model, heliocentric model, astronomer. Day length: sunrise, sunset, midday, time zone. Previously introduced vocabulary: Sun, moon, shadow, day, night, heat, light, reflect.	

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Electricity				Pupils should be taught to: 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 being good conductors.		Pupils should be taught to: 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.
Vocabulary Progression				Electricity: mains-powered, battery-powered, mains electricity, plug, appliances, devices. Circuits: circuit, simple series circuit, complete circuit, incomplete circuit. Circuit parts: bulb, cell, wire, buzzer, switch, motor, battery. Materials: electrical conductor, electrical insulator. Other: safety. Previously introduced vocabulary: names of materials.		Flow and measure of electricity: voltage, amps, resistance, electrons, volts (V), current. Circuits: symbol, circuit diagram, component, function, filament. Variations: dimmer, brighter, louder, quieter. Types of electricity: natural electricity, human-made electricity, solar panels, power station. Other: positive, negative.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Materials	Everyday Materials Pupils should be taught to: distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made; identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock; describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials; compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties.	Use of Everyday Materials Pupils should be taught to: • identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses; • find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.	Rocks Pupils should be taught to: compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties; describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock; recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.	States of Matter Pupils should be taught to: compare and group materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases; observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which this happens in degrees Celsius (°C); identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature.	Properties and Changes of Materials Pupils should be taught to: compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties, including their hardness, solubility, transparency, conductivity (electrical and thermal), and response to magnets; know that some materials will dissolve in liquid to form a solution, and describe how to recover a substance from a solution; 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.	
Vocabulary Progression	Names of materials: wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, rock, paper, cardboard, rubber, fabric. Properties of materials: hard, soft, shiny, dull, stretchy, rough, smooth, bendy, not bendy, transparent, opaque, waterproof, not waterproof, absorbent, not absorbent, sharp, stiff. Other: object.	Changing shape: squash, bend, twist, stretch. Properties of materials: e.g. strong, flexible, light, hardwearing, elastic. Other: suitability, recycle, pollution.	Types of rock: sedimentary rock, igneous rock, metamorphic rock. Properties of rocks: permeable, semi-permeable, impermeable, durable. Names of rocks: e.g. marble, chalk, granite, sandstone, slate. Formation of rocks and fossils: natural, human-made, magma, lava, molten rock, sediment, erosion, fossilisation, layers, bone, fossil. Soil: sandy, chalky, clay, peaty, loamy, topsoil, subsoil, bedrock, mineral, organic matter, compost. Other: palaeontology. Previously introduced vocabulary: soil, water, air.	States of matter: solids, liquids, gases, particles. State change: evaporate, condense, melt, freeze, heat, cool, melting point, freezing point, boiling point, water vapour. Water cycle: precipitation, evaporation, condensation, ground run-off, collection, underground water, bodies of water (sea, river, stream), water droplets, hail. Other: atmosphere. Previously introduced vocabulary: temperature, rain, cloud, snow, wind, sun, hot, cold, absorb, carbon dioxide.	Properties of materials: thermal conductor/insulator, magnetism, electrical resistance, transparency. Mixtures and solutions: dissolving, substance, soluble, insoluble. Changes of materials: reversible change, physical change, irreversible change, chemical change, burning, new material, product. Separating: sieving, filtering, magnetic attraction. Previously introduced vocabulary: electrical conductor/insulator, bulb, translucent.	

Progression of Vocabulary - Working Scientifically

KS1	LKS2	UKS2
aim	accurate	accuracy and precision
answers	bar chart	bar graphs
block diagrams	chart	causal relationship
changes	classify	degree of trust
compare	comparative test	dependent variable
describe	conclusion (What have we found out?)	independent variable
difference	criteria	justify
different	data	line graphs
enquiry	develop	refute
equipment	diagram	repeat results
experience	evaluate	scatter graphs
explore	evidence	support
findings	explanation	variables (what do we change, what do we keep the same,
gather	key	how and what are we measuring?)
group	making a test fair	
identify (name)	method	
investigate	observations	
measure	plan (What will we do?)	
notice	practical enquiry	
observe	prediction (What do you think will happen?)	
patterns	primary sources	
pictograms	questioning	
questions	reasoning	
record	relationships	
same	results (What happened?)	
similarity	secondary sources	
simple tables	standard units	
sort	table	
sorting diagrams	What do we change, what do we keep the same, what are we	
tally charts	measuring?	
test		
What will we do? (plan)		
What do you think will happen? (prediction)		
What happened? (results)		
What have we found out? (conclusion)		