

SCIENCE – List of Non-Negotiables

September 2026

Every Science Lesson Should Include:

Scientific Vocabulary Explicitly Taught

- Key vocabulary is displayed, taught and referred to throughout the unit.
- Pupils are encouraged to use scientific vocabulary when speaking and recording.
- Vocabulary from the Knowledge Organiser is revisited regularly.

Enquiry Skills and Enquiry Types are Made Explicit

- The scientific enquiry type is identified during the lesson.
- Children understand what type of scientific enquiry they are undertaking.
- Working Scientifically skills are explicitly referenced by adults.

Assessment is Ongoing

- Teachers use questioning, discussion and observation to identify misconceptions.
- Assessment opportunities are built into teaching and learning.
- Assessment information is used to inform future teaching and support pupils' next steps.

Every Classroom Should Have

Knowledge Organisers which are accessible

- Current science Knowledge Organisers are available to pupils and stuck into their science book.
- Teachers refer to them regularly during lessons.
- Vocabulary and key knowledge are revisited throughout the unit.

Science Displays Support Learning

- A science display which reflects current learning.
- Enquiry skills and enquiry type posters are visible.
- Displays include vocabulary, key knowledge and examples of science learning where appropriate.
- Displays celebrate science and support children's understanding of the subject.

Every Unit Should Include

Practical Science Learning

- Pupils are provided with opportunities to observe, investigate, test, classify and explore.
- Practical learning supports the development of scientific knowledge and understanding.
- Recording is used to support learning and does not replace practical enquiry.

Assessment and Review

- Learning is assessed in line with whole-school expectations.
- Teachers identify pupils who require additional support or challenge.
- Assessment is used to ensure progression in both scientific knowledge and enquiry skills.

High Expectations for Presentation and Recording

- Work is dated and titled appropriately (where age appropriate).
- Recording is meaningful and linked to the learning objective.
- Children are encouraged to take pride in their work.