# Primary Science Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
# Scholastic Year 2019-2020

## 1. How much time should be allotted to teaching Science?

| Year Group | Entitlement per week |
|---|---|
| *Year 1 | minimum of 1 lesson |
| *Year 2 | |
| Year 3 | 2½ hours (approximately 3 lessons) |
| Year 4 | |
| Year 5 | minimum of 1 lesson |
| Year 6 | minimum of 1 lesson |

*Reference is made to Letter Circular DLAP 433 – Teaching of Science in Primary Years 1 and 2.

Cross-curricular integration is highly encouraged, particularly during the planning stage, for efficiency and effective teaching and learning.

*Example 1: Factual information on the topic Plants can be covered during a language comprehension lesson. The information acquired from the comprehension text may then be referred to during a Science investigation on plants.*

*Example 2: Data gathered during a Science investigation on the topic Forces may be referred to or used during a Mathematics lesson on bar graphs.*

## 2. What weighting does Continuous Assessment carry?

### Year 3

Continuous Assessment in Year 3 does not carry weighting. However, 15 Broad Learning Outcomes have been selected and will be ticked/reported, by the class teacher, to parents/guardians on a termly basis (5 Broad Learning Outcomes ticked per term). The Science Peripatetic teacher will provide support, as necessary, to facilitate the continuous assessment process.

### Year 4

Continuous Assessment in Year 4 will carry 40% of the final global mark. A total of 7 Broad Learning Outcomes have been selected. The class teacher and the Science Peripatetic teacher will liaise together to ensure that all 7 Broad Learning Outcomes are ticked/reported. Parents/guardians will be able to access the reported Broad Learning Outcomes on a termly basis (2 or 3 Broad Learning Outcomes ticked per term). The final Continuous Assessment mark (40% of the final global mark) will be reported in the annual report.

Student/s absent on the day when the Continuous Assessment task is carried out, will be assessed on another task (assessing the respective Broad Learning Outcome) carried out during the scholastic year.

### Year 5 and Year 6

Continuous Assessment in Years 5 and 6 will carry 40% of the final global mark and is based on one Investigation carried out by the Science Peripatetic Teacher. This mark will be reported in the annual report. Sample investigations for Year 5 and Year 6 may be accessed on the DLAP Curriculum website.

## 3. What weighting does the annual written assessment carry?

The annual written assessment in Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 carries 60% of the final global mark.

## 4. What are the proposed tasks for Continuous Assessment?

**Year 3 and Year 4**

For Year 3 and Year 4, a selection of three different tasks, used as tools to assess the Broad Learning Outcomes, are being proposed. Namely, investigation, project or fieldwork activity.

*Example 1 (Year 3):*

*A project related to 'Keeping Healthy' may provide an opportunity to assess Broad Learning Outcome 3.3.2. Students can also be required to conduct research on the same topic to assess Broad Learning Outcome 3.1.2.*

*An investigation related to Electricity may be used to assess Broad Learning Outcome 3.5.5. During the investigation, the teacher may also assess Broad Learning Outcome 3.1.4.*

*Example 2 (Year 4):*

*An investigation related to Forces may be used to assess Broad Learning Outcome 4.1.4*

*A fieldwork activity related to Habitats may be used to assess Broad Learning Outcome 4.1.5*

*A project related to Space may be used to assess Broad Learning Outcome 4.1.2*

It is highly recommended that each Broad Learning Outcome, particularly in Year 4, is assessed individually to ensure a valid, reliable and accurate assessment.

**Year 5 and Year 6**

For Year 5 and Year 6 one investigation will be carried out by the Science Peripatetic teacher during the scholastic year. The topic for the investigation will be Forces. The topic Forces will not be assessed during the Annual written assessment.

## 5. How will the Continuous Assessment tasks be assessed?

**Year 3 and Year 4**

A rubric has been specifically designed to assess the Broad Learning Outcomes through the Continuous Assessment tasks assigned for Years 3 and 4. The suggested Rubric for Year 3 can be used to assess the 15 Broad Learning Outcomes. The suggested Rubric for Year 4 can be used to assess the 7 Broad Learning Outcomes and aid in assigning a mark (out of 20) to the Continuous Assessment task chosen.

*Example 1 (Year 4):*

*An investigation on materials that conduct electricity and materials that are insulators of electricity (LO 4.5.4) may be used to assess Broad Learning Outcome 4.1.3 as follows:*

*Fully achieved (16-20 marks) – "I think the light bulb will light up if a coin is used to complete the circuit because the coin is made of metal and metals are good conductors of electricity." The prediction shows full understanding and a logical scientific reason is provided.*

*Satisfactorily achieved (10-15 marks) – "I think the light bulb will light up if a coin is used to complete the circuit because I think the coin will let*

*electricity pass through." The prediction shows full understanding but the reason provided does not specify why electricity can pass through the coin.*

*Partially achieved (5-9 marks) – With support and guidance can predict: "I think the light bulb will light up if a coin is used to complete the circuit because that is what I think will happen." The prediction shows understanding with support and guidance but the reason provided is not scientifically correct.*

*Started to be achieved (0-4 marks) – With support and guidance can predict: "I think the light bulb will light up if the circuit is complete." The prediction shows limited understanding and student was provided with a lot of support or prompting.*

**Year 5 and Year 6**

The Investigations for Years 5 and 6 will be assessed through a marking scheme. Kindly refer to past marking schemes for Primary Science investigations on the DLAP Curriculum website here.

## 6. How are marks for Continuous Assessment tasks inputted?

**Year 4**

An Excel Sheet may be used to input the mark (out of 20) for each Broad Learning Outcome in Year 4 (BLO 4.1.1 till BLO 4.1.7). The Excel sheet will automatically compute the total mark (out of 100) for Continuous Assessment. The mark (out of 100) will be inputted by the class teacher in the MySchool portal.

**Year 5 and Year 6**

The Science Peripatetic team will mark the investigation on Forces and input the mark for the investigation (out of 20). An Excel Sheet may be

used by the Science Peripatetic teacher to convert the mark (out of 100) prior to inputting the mark in the MySchool portal.

**7. How are the marks for the written annual assessment and global mark worked out?**

All written annual assessment marks for Years 4, 5 and 6 are to be inputted in the MySchool portal (out of 100). An Excel sheet is provided for this conversion (refer to FAQ 6).

The portal will automatically work out the global mark by extracting 40% of the continuous assessment mark and 60% of the written annual assessment mark.

**8. Are there any resources to support the teaching of Science?**

A Teacher's Resource Pack for Year 3 and a Teacher's Resource Pack for Year 4 have been compiled by the Primary Science team to support the introduction of the Learning Outcomes in Year 3 and Year 4. The comprehensive Teacher's Resource Packs, and other teaching resources related to Primary Science (for Kinder to Year 6), can be accessed through the Primary Science Website.

*Note: All documentation/resources mentioned in this document are hyperlinked to facilitate access.*