**KS3 Science Progress Descriptors**

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| **Acquiring** | **Developing** | **Securing** | **Extending** |
| Use some common words (tier 1) that relate to scientific ideas. | Use some simple key words (tier 3) that link to scientific ideas. | Use relevant key words (tier 3) confidently when describing or explaining scientific ideas. | Use specialist key words (tier 3) to link together two or more different scientific ideas. |
| Demonstrate some knowledge and understanding of key scientific ideas. | Demonstrate mostly correct knowledge and understanding of key scientific ideas and can start to link these to familiar contexts. | Demonstrate accurate knowledge and understanding of key scientific ideas and apply these correctly to familiar contexts, using mostly accurate scientific terminology. | Demonstrate relevant and wide-ranging knowledge and understanding of many key scientific ideas and apply these correctly to both familiar and unfamiliar contexts using accurate scientific terminology. |
| Apply scientific past experience to provide simple explanations for key concepts. | Apply scientific knowledge and experiences to provide simple explanations for key concepts. | Apply scientific knowledge, understanding and experiences to provide detailed explanations for key concepts. | Apply scientific knowledge, understanding and experiences to provide detailed explanations for key concepts in both familiar and unfamiliar contexts |
| Use a model to explain a scientific idea / concept / process. | Apply scientific models to develop simple explanations of scientific concepts/ ideas / processes. | Apply scientific models to develop detailed explanations of scientific concepts/ ideas / processes. | Apply scientific models to develop explanations of scientific concepts / ideas / processes and evaluate the limitations of using models. |
| With support, can follow practical instructions. | Can follow practical instructions and start to ask questions about the scientific world. | Can plan scientific investigations to explore the answers to questions about the scientific world. | Can plan scientific investigations and evaluate the validity of experiments in questioning the scientific world. |