

Science Equipment Audit & Review:

- Begin by carrying out an inventory of the science equipment available in the school at present
- Discuss and evaluate the system of equipment management at present in the school.

The staff may then find it useful to draw up a draft list of the equipment required. Refer to list below taken from the Teacher Guidelines (p.148-151) for a suggested list of equipment.

“Individual schools should decide which of these items are pertinent to their needs.” (Teacher Guidelines p148) Much of this equipment could be brought in from home and the staff could discuss how best this request could be communicated to parents.

Table 1 Resources required for the science programme

Strand and strand units: Resources

Living things

Myself/Human life

- mirrors(plastic)
- metre sticks
- height chart
- thermometer
- measuring tape
- bathroom scales

Animals and plants

- flower pot
- insect cages
- small trowels
- aquarium tank
- old spoons
- sheets of Perspex or plastic
- watering can
- plastic tubing
- hand lenses
- nature viewers
- binocular microscope
- pooters
- binoculars
- magnispectors (bug viewers)
- bird table

Energy and forces

Magnetism and electricity

- Magnets (selection to include bar, button, horseshoe)
- Screw-in bulb holders
- Bulbs and appropriate batteries
- Iron filings
- Crocodile clips
- Needles
- Wires
- Compasses
- Electric buzzers
- A range of magnetic materials
- Electric bells
- Electric motor
- A selection of metals
- Wire stripping pliers
- Steel wool
- Screwdrivers

Light

- Torches
- Curved mirrors
- Plane mirrors
- Glass blocks and triangular prism
- Shiny objects that will act as mirrors: spoons, biscuit tin lid, sheet metal
- Transparent, translucent and opaque materials
- Colour filters
- Candles
- Old spectacle lenses
- Projector

Heat

- Thermometers
- Candles

Sound

- Tuning forks
- Rubber bands (different sizes and thicknesses)
- Guitar Strings

Forces

- Wheeled toys
- Oil, grease, polish, wax
- Inclined plane
- Sandpaper

- Springs
- Mechanisms: tongs, pliers, nutcracker, toys, old clock etc.
- Weights
- Marbles
- Balls
- Construction sets such as Meccano: wheels, pulley, axle rod, gears
- Timers
- Stop clocks and watches
- Balloons
- Plastic syringes
- Pulleys

Materials

- Funnels
- Polystyrene sheets, blocks, balls and beads
- Sieves, plastic, various meshes
- Sample of different fabrics and fibres
- Food colourings
- Samples of soap and detergents
- Dyestuffs
- Materials from the kitchen or bathroom (sugar, salt, soda, chalk, oil, soda water, lime water, tea, coffee, bath salts, flour)
- Samples of different metals
- Pebbles, stones, bricks and rocks
- Samples of different woods and wood products
- Samples of different types of paper (blotting paper, tissue paper, paper towels, waxed paper, greaseproof paper, newsprint)
- Corks

Table 2 Equipment and materials required for designing and making

Strand Units Resources

Exploring

- Construction kits such as Lego Technic, K'Nex, Meccano
- Mechanisms – egg beater, bicycle pump, jack, hinges, toys

Making

- Hammer and nails
- Nuts and bolts
- Hacksaw and spare blades
- Wood glues
- Clamp
- Sandpaper
- Screwdriver and screws
- Craft knife

- Hand drill
- Rulers and scissors
- Clips
- Spanners
- Needle
- Rotary cutter
- G clamp

Consumable materials

- Plasticine
- Plaster of Paris
- Clay
- A range of fabrics and fibres
- Fasteners – bulldog clips, paper clips, hair clips, clothes pegs
- Corrugated plastic
- Soft woods
- Foil
- Metals
- Acetate
- Plastic
- Rubber
- Dowels of various lengths and thicknesses
- Thin wire
- String and threads
- Adhesives
- Paints

Domestic reclaimable waste

- Plastic bottles of various sizes
- Plastic straws
- Aluminium foil
- Thread spools
- Tins
- Range of empty boxes, lids, containers and tubes
- Coat hangers
- Polystyrene blocks and beads
- Scrap cord and board
- Corks of varying sizes