**5 Types of Scientific Enquiry**

There are 5 main types of enquiry that children need to be taught, practise and apply as they seek to answer science questions; initially exploring their teacher’s questions but increasingly, generating their own science questions and lines of enquiry.

**Observing over time**

Children observe or measure how one variable changes over time. *Provide different time frames – short, medium and long term.*

**Grouping and classifying**

Children identify features or tests that help them distinguish between different things.

**Noticing patterns**

Children observe and record phenomena, carry out surveys or collect data from secondary sources and then identify relationships between data in their findings.

**Research**

Children use secondary sources of evidence to answer questions.

**Comparative and fair testing**

**Comparative testing**

Beginning at KS1 - making simple comparisons, one thing with another.

**Fair testing**

From KS2 - children observe or measure the effect that changing one variable has on another whilst attempting to keep other variables constant.

*Independent variable (what changes), dependent variable (outcome to measure or observe), controlled variables (things to keep the same).*