

Class Experimental Research Project



(Lower, Middle and Upper Primary)

The class experimental research project provides the opportunity for a class to engage in experimental research of greater scope than would be possible within the experimental research section of the competition. This could be achieved by choosing to investigate a hypothesis in great depth or a set of linked hypotheses.

1. This section is for Lower, Middle and Upper Primary students only. There is a maximum of 8 entries per school across the 3 divisions.
2. The project **must** be based around the investigation of a hypothesis (question) through experimental research.
3. All students listed within the class entry must be involved in the project.
4. The topic or theme is unrestricted **however**, students will be judged on the:
 - level of student involvement in decision-making
 - scientific skills and knowledge gained by students
 - quality of science within the project
 - ability to extend their learning and knowledge beyond the science class room
 - originality and creativity of the topic.
5. A representative group of 4 to 6 students will need to present the class project on the Judging Day.
6. **Country entrants** are strongly encouraged to attend the Judging Day. Country entrants who cannot attend the Judging Day are required to record a 5 minute video presentation answering the questions listed in the oral presentation section of the guidelines. This should be sent along with their entry. **Please notify STAV via email that you will not be attending the Judging day.**
7. The class needs to be clearly identified eg. Victoria Primary School -Year 1, Class XXX
8. A complete bibliography must be included along with acknowledgment of any assistance from teachers and other adults. See page 23 to reference correctly.

Entry guidelines

The class project consists of three **compulsory** parts.

- The written scientific experimental research report
- Evidence of class involvement
- An oral presentation on Judging Day (or a video for country entrants).

Each part should be presented according to the following guidelines:

Scientific Research Report

The research and written report must follow the guidelines for 'Writing an experimental research report' Lower, Middle and Upper Primary Division found on page 10 of this STS handbook. Both passive or active voice is **equally** acceptable.

- The report must be stapled or bound together with a cover or in a manila folder. **No loose paper or paper**

inside plastic sleeves will be judged. The Yellow Face Sheet must be firmly attached to the front cover.

- Bibliography and acknowledgment list for the whole project should be attached to the back of the Report.

Evidence of Class Involvement

Evidence must demonstrate the participation of the class, and assist the children attending the oral presentation to explain the scientific learning that has taken place.

All evidence must be the work of the children.

Evidence may include:

- Children's experimental notes, drawings and diagrams.
- Photographic poster
- Model
- Products of the experimental investigation

The evidence must be easily transportable, carried by up to three students.

If using a computer program/DVD as part of providing evidence you must provide your own laptop and ensure the students can run it independently.

Any assistance that the children receive in producing and compiling the evidence must be clearly acknowledged.

Oral Presentation

- When/if preparing your oral presentation focus should be on the results and discussion sections of the project. The Aim, Method and Materials will be judged from the written report and will not require reading out.
- Judges look favourably on the ability for students to communicate the science beyond the initial investigation and the understanding of errors in science. (Part of discussion in written report).
- A small group of 4 – 6 children representing the class need to attend Judging Day and present their entire project at a designated time.
- Possible questions asked may include but are not limited to:
 1. What decisions did your class have to make during the experimental research?
 2. What science have you learnt from doing this research project?
 3. When doing experimental research what important skills must you use?
 4. How was the workload distributed amongst the members of your class?
 5. How does the scientific learning extend beyond the classroom (wider world applications)
 6. Science celebrates errors. What problems and/or errors occurred during the experimental process?

Metropolitan schools must take their projects to Judging Day at Methodist Ladies' College, Kew with their group representatives on Saturday 5 August 2017. **Schools with Class Project entries will be contacted prior to judging day and be allocated a judging time.**

All guidelines should be followed to avoid being disadvantaged during judging.