



Awards of Science Excellence

How they work








>> **NB YOU NEED TO APPLY FOR THE AWARD OF SCIENCE EXCELLENCE FROM JANUARY 14TH TO MARCH 31ST. TO APPLY FOR AN AWARD PLEASE LOG ONTO WWW.PRIMARYSCIENCE.IE OR CONTACT THE DPS TEAM ON 01 607 3184.**

>> **YOU NEED TO SUBMIT YOUR LOG BOOK BY MAY 2ND 2008**

Keep a Discovery Log




Your Discovery Log is a key aspect of your application for an Award and should provide all the evidence the judging panel needs to demonstrate that your school meets all of the criteria for an Award of Science Excellence.

NB: Discovery Logs must be received in full on the submission date – there will be no opportunity to re-submit or substantiate evidence once the application has been made. If evidence is not apparent, an Award cannot be achieved.

-  Break the log into the four steps required to attain the Award as follows:
 - Prescribed activities
 - Visit a DPS Discover Centre or invite a scientist to your school
 - Participate in a science event
 - Other explorative activities
-  Clear and simple layout is best. You can use a journal, a scrap book, CDs, folders, posters, videos, power point presentations, websites, or any combination of these. Just remember you will need to submit your Discovery Log, in your preferred format, by post or by email.
-  Children's accounts of their own work are the basis of a good Discovery Log. Use lots of photos to record work in class, trips, events or visitors to the school so you can spend less time writing and more time doing hands-on science.
-  If children are keeping individual Discovery Logs, examples can be submitted with the Award application. However, they should be supplemented with a school Discovery Log that covers all of the work required for the Award.
-  Don't be afraid to include things that didn't work in your log book as understanding what went wrong is a very important aspect of science!!

Step 1 - Prescribed activities (from the Discover Primary Science Classroom Activity Pack)

Provide evidence that more than one class in the school have completed:

-  Three curriculum-based activities (see Section 3 of the DPS Activity Support Booklet) **AND**
-  Three other activities, one of which must be a silver or gold activity (see Section 4 of the DPS Activity Support Booklet or additional flash-based activities from www.primaryscience.ie) **OR**
-  If your school has attained the award in previous years and covered all activities in the pack, you may include 6 other hands on activities completed by 2 or more classes as step 1. You may also use activities from pack as well as your own as long as there are 6 activities.



Step 2 - Either a) Visit a DPS Discover Centre or b) Invite a Scientist or Engineer to your school

a) Provide evidence of a class visit to one of the DPS Discovery Science Centres listed below:

NB: It is important to provide your DPS reference number at the time of booking, prior to your visit. This will ensure you receive a certificate from the centre indicating your participation in the DPS related programme devised specifically to fit in with Discover Primary Science.

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| 1. Airfield Trust Dublin www.airfield.ie | 10. National Stud & Japanese Gardens, Co Kildare www.irish-national-stud.ie | 19. North Bull Island, Dublin www.dublincity.ie |
| 2. Birr Castle Demesne www.birrcastle.com | 11. W5, Belfast www.w5online.co.uk | 20. Brigits Garden, Galway www.brigitsgarden.ie |
| 3. Dublin Zoo www.dublinozoo.ie | 12. National Museum of Ireland, Co. Mayo www.museum.ie | 21. Ballymun Rediscovery Centre, Dublin www.br1.ie |
| 4. Fota Wildlife Park, Cork www.fotawildlife.ie | 13. Castlecomer Discovery Park, Kilkenny www.discoverypark.ie | 22. Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park www.lullymoreheritagepark.com |
| 5. Galway Atlantaquaria www.nationalaquarium.ie | 14. NPWS, Ballinafad www.npws.ie | 23. Irish Seed Savers, Co. Clare www.irishseedsavers.ie |
| 6. Glenveagh National Park www.glenveaghnationalpark.ie | 15. ELLIE, Millstreet Country Park, Co. Cork www.millstreetcountrypark.com | 24. National Sea Life Centre, Co. Wicklow www.sealife.ie |
| 7. Killarney National Park Education Centre http://homepage.eircom.net/~knp/ | 16. Irish National Forestry Foundation www.inff.ie | 25. Blackrock Castle Observatory, Co. Cork www.bco.ie |
| 8. Lismore Heritage Centre www.discoverlismore.com | 17. Lifetime Lab, Co. Cork www.lifetimelab.ie | |
| 9. Knocksink Wood Nature Reserve, Co. Wicklow www.knocksinkwood.org | 18. Armagh Planetarium www.armaghplanet.com | |

Visits to non-accredited Science Centres will only earn credit in Step 4.








OR

b) Provide evidence that a speaker visited the school to talk about science or engineering.

This could be someone working in local industry, second or third level science education, an Education & Outreach officer in a third level Science & Engineering Centre, a medical professional, a garda, an engineer, a food technician, a farmer – anyone who can talk about the science or engineering element in his/her job. Remember to look within your own parent community, as well as the wider community, for speakers available to the school. www.primaryscience.ie.

Step 3 - Participate in a science event
















Provide evidence that your school/class science work was on display and/or demonstrated at one of the following:

-  A science open day or evening in your school for parents and/or the local community, where students display their own work.
-  A display day held in the training host centre or local education centre displaying students own work.
-  A joint science event with another registered school where students display their work (see other registered schools listed in teachers area of the website www.primaryscience.ie).

Step 4

In addition to the activities listed under Steps 1-3 please list and provide evidence of three other science activities that your school has been involved in over the last year (activities listed in Steps 1-3 cannot be included again).

Some examples of activities you can earn credit for are listed below. The list is by no means exhaustive so please tell us about other activities you have undertaken too.

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|  Submit your own activities to the Gallery Section, Teachers Area, www.primaryscience.ie – provide details |  Evidence that a teacher has attended a science course in the past year (other than induction day for this project) |
|  Provide evidence of using the quarterly e-newsletter and flash activities from www.primaryscience.ie in your classroom |  Evidence that your school ran a Science Week event in November 2007 |
|  Register for the Green Flag programme – show evidence of participation in 2007-2008 |  Evidence that your school attended a Science Week event in November 2007, see www.scienceweek.ie for details |
|  Evidence of participation in the Greenwave Project, see www.greenwave.ie for details |  Subscribe to the www.science.ie monthly electronic science newsletter, you can do this by logging onto www.science.ie |
|  Provide evidence that a teacher has demonstrated activities from the classroom pack to other teachers in your school |  Evidence that students and/or teachers attended the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2008 |
|  Set up a science or school website – provide details |  Provide evidence of undertaking your own science projects |
|  Take part in the FÁS Science Challenge and provide evidence | |
|  Evidence that the school took part in the STEPS K’NEX Challenge | |
|  Evidence that a Science & Engineering club was set up in your school | |



Work towards the Award of Science Excellence can begin immediately after the teacher induction day! Remember, you must provide evidence for all four steps in your Discovery Log. Discover Primary Science will provide you with guidelines for applying for the Award of Science Excellence, and submissions can be made by 2nd May 2008. In the meantime, read about past Awards recipients and how they compiled their logs under the Awards of Science Excellence on www.primaryscience.ie



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