

# Developing APP in Science to encourage deeper learning

## What were your reasons for doing this type of development work?

The school was invited to participate in the pilot of Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) in science during 2007-8. At that time pupil progress was being tracked by using end of module tests and there was a feeling amongst some of the staff that this didn't always generate evidence that was useful in helping pupils know how to improve. There was also a desire to develop stronger independent study skills so that when pupils progressed to higher level courses, especially post 16, they would be well equipped to deal with the challenges of such courses. As the pilot developed it became clear to the staff involved that APP would help them to challenge pupils to develop a deeper understanding of the process of science, and to recognise informal learning of various forms.

## Who might find this case study useful?

- Head of school improvement
- Headteacher
- Middle leader
- National Strategies consultant
- Senior leadership team (SLT)
- SIP (School Improvement Partner)
- Subject leader
- Teacher

### School or setting

**Authored by:**

Ed Walsh

**Co-authored by:**

Rebecca Stokes

**School:**

Teign School

**Type of school:**

Secondary

**Local Authority:**

Devon

**Region**

South West

**Free school meals:**

Less than 20%

## Key points

### Point 1

APP is good at informing teaching, identifying gaps in provision and encouraging teachers to be creative

### Point 2

APP provides reliable evidence to inform discussions about pupil progress with a variety of audiences

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- What

The intention was to give pupils more independence in their study. Approaches included changing attitudes in the classroom, classroom enquiries and work scrutinies.

- Impact

It was found that pupils became more vocal in expressing their ideas in lessons. Teachers were more likely to use open-ended questions in lessons. Across the school, pupil progress data became more reliable.

- Summary

The crucial thing that made a difference was pupils knowing what they needed to do to be successful.

## Learners

**Year**

**groups:**

Year 7, Year 8,  
Year 9

**Gender:**

Both

**Performance:**

Below age-related  
expectation, At  
age-related  
expectation, Above  
age-related  
expectation

**Whole**

**school:**

No

**People**

**involved:**

LA adviser,  
Subject leader,  
Teacher

**Number of**

**classes:**

Five

**Number of**

**adult**

**learners:**

Two teachers were  
involved in the pilot  
during 2007-8.  
There are currently  
eight teachers  
involved with  
implementing APP  
throughout Year 7.