

Wingate Primary School

Policy for Maths

2023- 2024

Mathematics Policy

The policy is written with consideration to our school commitment to the Rights of the Child and our achievement of becoming a Rights Respecting School and it complies with Article 28 of the UNCRC 'Every child has the right to an education' as well as Article 29 'Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.' Although direct reference to this is not continuously made, the policy has been written with full awareness of our responsibility and commitment to children's Rights.

The rights and dignity of our children are at the heart of everything we do, every decision we and they make and every driver for making progress and helping our children to develop as responsible, valued global citizens who want to make a positive contribution to their and our world.

In our school, it is our intent that we help children to develop resilience, perseverance, autonomy and focus. Our children learn that they are valued and valuable, they are independent people in their own right and they have the power to do wonderful, amazing things at every stage of every day.

Every one of our children is a unique individual with their own strengths, aptitudes, interests and dreams. As a school community, we will endeavour to support each child to make the most of every opportunity we offer.

We provide enriching experiences to engage learners and in designing and developing our curriculum we have taken into consideration

- how children learn and remember; progress means knowing more and remembering more
- what our children need to succeed in life; the cultural capital they need to make aspirational choices and succeed beyond their time at Wingate Primary School.

The key drivers for our curriculum are:

Ambition and aspiration

Resilience and courage

Autonomy and independence

Perseverance and solution finding

Introduction

'Mathematics is a creative and highly interconnected discipline that has been developed over centuries providing the solution to some of history's most intriguing problems. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. A high quality mathematical education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the power and beauty of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.' (DfE 2013)

As can be seen from the above introduction, mathematics pervades all aspects of our lives and helps us to make sense of our world. With this in mind this policy promotes the basic and wider understanding of mathematics, and hopes to instil an enjoyment in the subject by supporting children to engage with it and build upon their own understanding and promote further learning.

Learning skills are an important aspect of mathematics but such skills are only a means to an end, and should be taught and learned in a context that provides purpose and meaning.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Calculation Policy (appended to this document)
- Assessment Policy
- Marking Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equality Policy

NC Links

The programmes of study for mathematics are set out year-by-year for key stages 1 and 2. Schools are however only required to teach the relevant programme of study by the end of the key stage. Within each key stage, schools therefore have the flexibility to introduce content earlier or later than set out in the programme of study. In addition, schools can introduce key stage content during an earlier key stage, if appropriate. All schools are also required to set out their school curriculum for mathematics on a year-by-year basis and make this information available online.

The expectation is that the majority of pupils will move through the programmes of study at broadly the same pace. However, decisions about when to progress should be based on the security of the pupils' understanding.

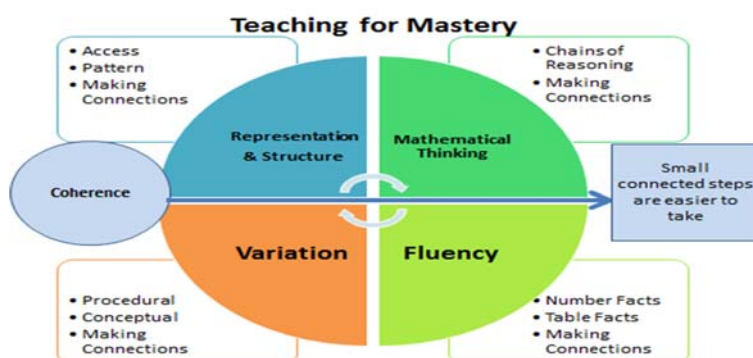
Our Vision

Wingate Primary School's policy has been developed on the basis of the National Curriculum for England. This policy was partly the result of work within the Peterlee partnership to collectively establish a working policy that would benefit all schools. More recently our school works with the Archimedes Maths hub as part of a sustaining mastery work group which aims to work with a mastery lead and other Maths leads across numerous schools to help support and develop Maths provision within school.

This policy is written with consideration to our school commitment to the rights of a child as outlined in the Unicef convention of rights for children. Although direct reference to this is not continuously made, the policy has been written with full awareness of our responsibility as duty bearers and commitment to this purpose.

The National Curriculum provides a framework for mathematics but the school is aware of the need for flexibility and creativity in teaching and learning styles in response to the needs of individual children.

What is teaching for mastery?



FLUENCY INVOLVES:

- Quick recall of facts and procedures
- The flexibility and fluidity to move between different contexts and representations of mathematics.
- The ability to recognise relationships and make connections in mathematics

REPRESENTATION & STRUCTURE

Mathematical structures are the key patterns and generalisations that underpin sets of numbers – they are the laws and relationships that we want children to spot. Using different representations can help children to 'see' these laws and relationships.

VARIATION

Procedural variation – This is a deliberate change in the type of examples used and questions set, to draw attention to certain features.

Conceptual variation – When a concept is presented in different ways, to show what a concept is, in all of its different forms.

MATHEMATICAL THINKING INVOLVES:

- Looking for pattern and relationships
- Logical Reasoning
- Making Connections

COHERENCE

Teachers should develop detailed knowledge of the curriculum in order to break the mathematics down into small steps to develop mastery and address all aspects in a logical progression. This will ensure deep and sustainable learning for all pupils.

As a result of teaching and learning in mathematics, our aim is that pupils will be able to meet the key aims of the National Curriculum for maths.

- In our school we aim to promote children's **curiosity** and enable them to safely take risks and learn from first hand experience wherever necessary
- Our primary focus is to support the children to become fluent in mathematical **understanding** from the most basic level so that they can build upon their own understanding.
- We aim to enable our children to develop conceptual understanding, **recall** of number facts and patterns and apply their knowledge rapidly and accurately.
- We aim to promote children's ability to **reason** through opportunities to discuss their thinking and understanding. This emphasis may result in less written work but much deeper understanding.
- We promote **problem solving** and solution finding. This is not only true in mathematical learning but in almost all aspects of school life.
- We aim to support children to make **progress at their own pace**. Often misconceptions cause greater difficulties at a later stage of learning. We will promote smaller group learning opportunities whenever possible and encourage children to revisit their thinking to ensure they feel secure in their understanding and able to move confidently on to next steps and challenges.

EYFS

Mathematics within the EYFS is developed through purposeful, play based experiences and will be represented throughout the indoor and outdoor provision. The learning will be based on pupil's interests and current themes and will focus on the expectations from Development Matters / Early Years Outcomes. Mathematical understanding can be developed through stories, songs, games, imaginative play, child initiated learning and structured teaching. As pupils progress, they will be encouraged to record their mathematical thinking in a more formal way.

“Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding - such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles

and tens frames for organising counting - children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes."

Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage

Key Stage 1 Maths.

The principal focus of mathematics teaching in key stage 1 is to ensure pupils develop confidence and mental fluency. The essential idea behind the mastery approach is that all children have a deep understanding so that future learning continues to build on solid foundations. If the subject is represented using concrete materials, pictorial representations and abstract symbols, it will allow children to visualise maths in varied ways, see connections and to independently explore and investigate a topic. Practical activities and resources offer the children a deeper mathematical understanding of more complex concepts. Providing children with visual representations also offers a scaffold when developing a more robust understanding of maths. Throughout Key Stage 1, it is important that children gain a secure knowledge of number and place value and become confident when using the four operations in both formal methods as well as problem solving where often the approach is not immediately evident. Alongside number work, pupils begin to identify fractions using shapes, objects and quantities and make connections to equal sharing and grouping. Pupils are taught to count to ten in fractions, recognise equivalent fractions and develop their understanding of fractions on a number line. At this stage, pupils will also develop their ability to recognise, describe, draw, compare and sort different shapes. Pupils have the opportunity to use a range of measures to describe and compare different quantities such as length, mass, capacity/volume, time and money and are expected to use related vocabulary for all topics. Other subjects may have strong links to some maths topics allowing cross-curricular teaching. For example, shape through art or computing, measures through science or coordinates in geography. This is to ensure we continually maximise learning opportunities for all pupils across an entire curriculum.

Key Stage 2 maths

Lower Key Stage 2 – Years 3-4. The principal focus of mathematics teaching in lower Key Stage 2 is to ensure that pupils become increasingly fluent with whole numbers and the four operations, including number facts and the concept of place value. This should ensure that pupils develop efficient written and mental methods and perform calculations accurately with increasingly large whole numbers. At this stage, pupils should develop their ability to solve a range of problems, including with simple fractions and decimal place value. Teaching should also ensure that pupils draw with increasing accuracy and develop mathematical reasoning so they can analyse shapes and their properties, and confidently describe the relationships

between them. It should ensure that they can use measuring instruments with accuracy and make connections between measure and number. By the end of Year 4, pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table and show precision and fluency in their work.

Upper Key Stage 2 – Years 5-6 The principal focus of mathematics teaching in upper Key Stage 2 is to ensure that pupils extend their understanding of the number system and place value to include larger integers. This should develop the connections that pupils make between multiplication and division with fractions, decimals, percentages and ratio. At this stage, pupils should develop their ability to solve a wider range of problems, including increasingly complex properties of numbers and arithmetic, and problems demanding efficient written and mental methods of calculation. With this foundation in arithmetic, pupils are introduced to the language of algebra as a means for solving a variety of problems. Teaching in geometry and measures should consolidate and extend knowledge developed in number. Teaching should also ensure that pupils classify shapes with increasingly complex geometric properties and that they learn the vocabulary they need to describe them. By the end of Year 6, pupils should be fluent in written methods for all four operations, including long multiplication and division, and in working with fractions, decimals and percentages.

Alongside the above objectives runs a desire to implement key reasoning and problem solving skills within lessons and also throughout the wider life of school. Alongside our Gem approach within school we aim to develop children's resilience, focus and problem skills by providing them with relevant challenge via various mathematical representations including open ended problems and real word application.

Parental Involvement

AT SCHOOL, we encourage parents to be involved by:

- Inviting them into school twice/three times yearly to discuss the progress of their child. (Via telephone or in person)
- Providing parents with a booklet with current targets, an interim report and a yearly report outlining their child's achievements.
- Holding workshops for parents or family days. (To recommence when possible)
- Sending homework activities weekly to be completed by or with their child (Online and written activities depending on the specific year group)

Inclusion

Teaching maths for mastery is different because it offers all pupils access to the full maths curriculum. This inclusive approach, and its emphasis on promoting multiple methods of solving a problem, builds self-confidence and resilience in pupils. Though the whole class goes through the same content at the same pace, there is still plenty of opportunity for differentiation. Taking a mastery approach, differentiation occurs in the support and intervention provided to different pupils, not in the topics taught, particularly at earlier stages. There is no differentiation in content taught, but the questioning and scaffolding individual pupils receive in class as they work through problems will differ, with higher attaining children, or those pupils who grasp concepts quickly, challenged through more demanding problems which deepen their knowledge of the same content. Those children who are not sufficiently fluent are provided additional support to consolidate their understanding before moving on. Pupils' difficulties and misconceptions are identified through immediate formative

assessment and addressed where possible with intervention or through regular consolidation activities.

Where children make less than expected progress efforts are made to ensure relevant support is put in place to help support the child. No child will be denied a full curriculum however and concepts will be revisited throughout the year during challenge times or intervention times to help with long term understanding.

Organisation

- All children receive a daily maths lesson (at times this may need to be rearranged due to external supply), although mathematical skills run through many other areas of the curriculum.
- Each lesson focusses on one clear learning objective which all children are expected to master; extension activities enable those children who grasp the objective rapidly to extend their learning by exploring it at greater depth.
- Each lesson can include elements of: **fluency**, to practise skills; **reasoning**, to deepen understanding; and **problem solving**, to apply skills depending on the objective being taught and the understanding of the children.
- Teachers use the updated White Rose Mastery planning and resources to aid Maths teaching within school. Teachers follow the scheme of work provided by White Rose to ensure full curriculum coverage including fluency, reasoning and problem solving opportunities are addressed within lessons. Other online resources are available via Edshed and espresso which the children have access to both at home and in school.
- Whole class teaching is adopted and where possible children work in mixed ability groups. We believe that all children should have the same standard of teaching and to ensure this we aim not to group children based on their ability but also accept that at times this may be necessary. We therefore aim to differentiate via outcome rather than work set.
- Every classroom has a range of practical apparatus to support children's learning, with additional resources stored centrally. We aim to review this and add to it each year.

Monitoring and Review.

The monitoring of maths teaching and pupil progress is the shared responsibility of teachers, subject leader and the senior leadership team. The work of the subject leader includes supporting colleagues in the teaching of maths, keeping up to date with current developments as well as providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject. The school's governing body receive regular updates to inform them of the vision for continually driving forward teaching for mastery.

Within school we regularly conduct peer review sessions whereby we critically look at Maths as a subject within the school. We observe lessons, speak to children/staff, analyse books/marking and ultimately come together as a staff to critique what we are doing well and what we want to improve.

In recent times we have identified a need to improve reasoning and problem solving opportunities throughout school and have improved our resources within school to tackle this. (Please see further Maths reviews for further updates)

Update – Summer 2023

Following this years Ofsted inspection – Maths provision was praised for including all learners and it was noted that there was a high expectation of the children and that the curriculum was clearly ambitious.

“Leaders prioritise the development of pupils’ vocabulary. Pupils are expected to talk about their learning maturely. This includes in the early years where children explain their reasoning in early mathematics by saying ‘I know this because...’. Teachers use subject-specific vocabulary in their lessons.”