



EYFS Teaching for Mastery Calculation Policy

Mathematics is a creative and highly inter-connected 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 mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

The aims of this policy

Mastery is for all, and the aim of this policy is to ensure all children leave our school with a secure understanding of the four operations and can confidently use both written and mental calculation strategies in a range of contexts. It aims to ensure consistent strategies, models and images are used across the school to embed and deepen children's learning and understanding of mathematical concepts.

How should this policy be used?

This policy has been designed to support the teaching and planning of mathematics in our school. The policy only details the strategies, and teachers must plan opportunities for pupils to apply these; for example, when solving problems, or where opportunities emerge elsewhere in the curriculum. The examples and illustrations are not exhaustive but provide an overall picture of what the mathematics in our school should look like. This is not a scheme of work and must be used in conjunction with our school maths policy and curriculum documents.

This policy sets out the progression of strategies and written methods which children will be taught as they develop in their understanding of the four operations. Strategies are set out in a Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract (CPA) approach to develop children's deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts. Children use concrete objects to help them make sense of the concept or problem; this could be anything from real or plastic fruit, to straws, counters or cubes. This is then developed through the use of images, models and children's own pictorial representations before moving on to the abstract mathematics. Children will travel along this continuum again and again, often revisiting previous stages when a concept is extended. It is also worth noting that if a child has moved on from the concrete to the pictorial, it does not mean that the concrete cannot be used alongside the pictorial. Or if a child is working in the abstract, 'proving' something or 'working out' could involve use of the concrete or pictorial.

Similarly, although the strategies are taught in a progressive sequence, they are designed to equip children with a 'tool box' of skills and

strategies that they can apply to solve problems in a range of contexts. So as a new strategy is taught it does not necessarily supersede the previous, but builds on prior learning to enable children to have a variety of tools to select from. As children become increasingly independent, they will be able to and must be encouraged to select those strategies which are most efficient for the task.

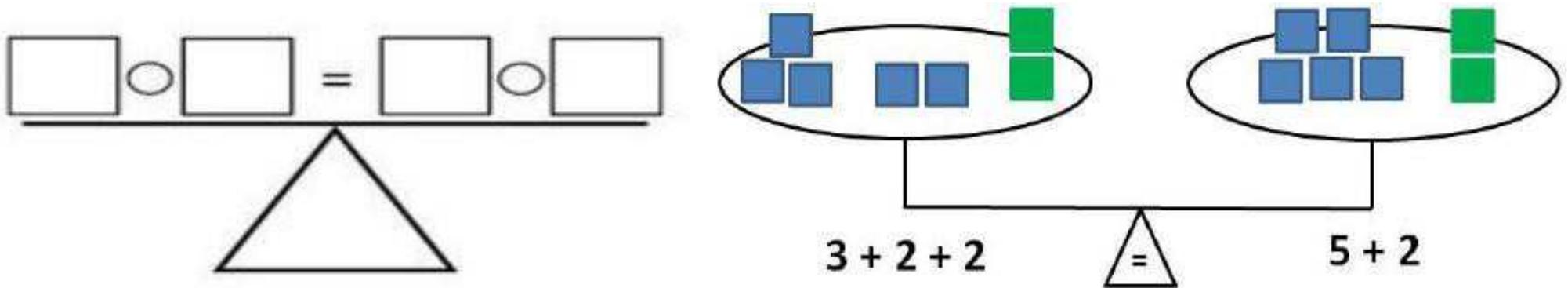
The strategies are separated into the 4 operations for ease of reference. However, it is intended that addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division will be taught together to ensure that children are making connections and seeing relationships in their mathematics. Therefore, some strategies will be taught simultaneously, for example, counting on (addition) and counting back (subtraction).

Children should be moved through the strategies at a pace appropriate to their age related expectations as defined in the EYFS and NC. Effective teaching of the strategies rely on increasing levels of number sense, fluency and ability to reason mathematically. Children must be supported to gain depth of understanding within the strategy through the CPA approach and not learn strategies as a procedure.

Teaching equality

It is important that when teaching the 4 operations that equality (=) is also taught appropriately. Misconceptions that = means that children must 'do something' and that it indicates that an answer is needed are common and must be addressed early on. Teachers should present children with number sentences and problems which place the = sign in different positions, different context and include missing box problems. For example, $?+4=7$; $7=3+?$; $<$, $>$, or $= 5+6$ $7+4$. In the concrete phase scales and Numicon provide a useful resource to demonstrate equality.

Pictorial representations of equality can be used as shown below:



End of year expectations for calculations.

EYFS

- count reliably with numbers from one to 20.
- place numbers in order.
- say which number is one more or one less than a given number.
- using quantities and objects, they add two single-digit numbers and count on to find the answer.
- using quantities and objects, they subtract two single-digit numbers and back to find the answer.
- solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.

Progression in Calculations

Addition

Nursery

Before addition can be introduced, children need to have a secure knowledge of number. In Nursery, children are introduced to the concept of counting, number order and number recognition through practical activities and games. This is taught through child initiated games such as hide and seek and I spy. Children also learn how to count 1-1 (pointing to each object as they count) and that anything can be counted, for example, claps, steps and jumps. This is reinforced by opportunities provided in the outdoor area for the children to count e.g. counting building blocks, twigs etc.

Reception

Before addition can be introduced, children in Reception build on concepts taught in Nursery by working through the number objectives in the 40 – 60 month band of Development Matters. Children need to have a secure knowledge of number in order to begin addition. Children are then introduced to the concept of addition through practical games and activities. Children act out addition sums to physically add two groups of objects together and use arm gestures to represent the signs + and =. This is reinforced by opportunities provided in the outdoor area for the children to use addition e.g. adding together groups of building blocks, twigs etc. Children build on their previous knowledge of 'more' by learning that adding two groups of objects together gives them a larger number (more objects). Adults model addition vocabulary supported by age appropriate definition. An example of this is "addition means we add two groups together / we put 2 lots of objects together. Equals means we find out how many we have got altogether. 3 add 2 equals 5. We have got 5 altogether". Adults support children in recording their addition sums in the written form on whiteboards.



Progression in Calculations

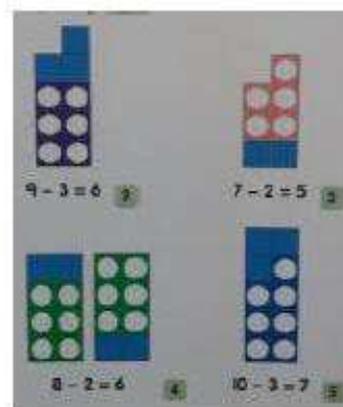
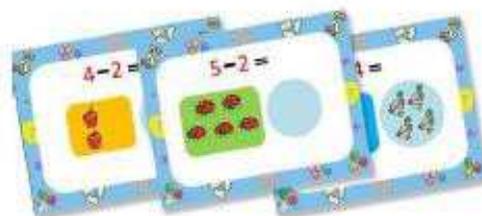
Subtraction

Nursery

Before subtraction can be introduced, children need to have a secure knowledge of number. In Nursery, children are introduced to the concept of counting backwards. This is taught through child initiated games indoors and outdoors such as acting out counting songs and running races (children shouting “5,4,3,2,1,0 - GO!”).

Reception

Before subtraction can be introduced, children in Reception build on concepts taught in Nursery by working through the number objectives in the 40 – 60 month band of Development Matters. Children need to have a secure knowledge of number in order to begin subtraction. Children are then introduced to the concept of subtraction through practical games and activities. Children act out subtractions to physically subtract a number of objects from a group. This is reinforced by opportunities provided in the outdoor area for the children to count e.g. counting building blocks, twigs etc. Children build on their previous knowledge by learning that subtracting means taking away a certain number of objects from a group (leaving them with fewer objects). Adults model subtraction vocabulary supported by age appropriate definition. An example of this is “subtraction means we take away objects from a group / we have 11 fewer objects now. Equals means we find out how many we have got left. Wow! We have only got 3 left!” Adults support children in recording their subtractions in the written form on whiteboards.



Progression in Calculations

Multiplication

Nursery and Reception

By the end of Reception, children are expected to understand the concept of doubling and to be able to double a number up to 10. Before doubling can be introduced, children need to have a secure knowledge of counting, number facts and addition in order to double. Children are then introduced to the concept of doubling through practical games and activities, including the use of the outdoor areas. Children act out 'doubling' by physically add two equal groups together to find out the 'doubles' answer.



Progression in Calculations

Division

Nursery and Reception

By the end of Reception, children are expected to understand the concept of halving and sharing. Before this can be introduced, children need to have a secure knowledge of counting backwards, number facts and subtraction in order to halve and share. Children are then introduced to the concept of halving and sharing through practical games and activities. They act out 'halving and sharing' through activities such as sharing food for their Teddy Bear's Picnic, sharing resources equally to play a game. This is reinforced by opportunities provided in the outdoor area for the children to halve and share out objects such as building blocks, twigs etc.



