

Mathematics and Numeracy

Numeracy is the development and application of mathematics across the curriculum and in real life situations. Skills in numeracy should help children to make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives.

Throughout the primary school, children should engage in a wide range of purposeful activities which should involve them in different modes of mathematical learning, including playing, exploring and investigating, doing and observing, talking and listening, asking questions, reflecting, drafting, reading and recording.

Numeracy is a life skill used in making everyday decisions and in virtually every work context. We use skills in numeracy to plan our time, handle money, manage our own budgets, organise our homes and carry out DIY tasks. We are often confronted with data, frequently statistical, through television, radio and the press. Increasingly, adults are required to use numeracy skills in the workplace.

Mathematical ideas should be introduced to children in meaningful contexts. Teachers should create a well resourced and stimulating environment where children learn through taking part in oral work and a wide range of practical activities, including games, to develop and consolidate their learning. Activities should be balanced between tasks which develop knowledge, skills and understanding, and those which develop the ability to apply mathematical learning and solve problems. Children should be encouraged to use their knowledge of mathematical language to talk about their work and explain their findings. Teachers should encourage children to persevere with tasks, so gaining confidence in what they can do and developing a positive attitude towards mathematics.