



Rich fields of learning



## Maths Policy - January 2020

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# 1. Curriculum Statement

## Intent

The 2014 National Curriculum for Maths aims to ensure that all children:

- Become fluent in the fundamentals of Mathematics
- Are able to reason mathematically
- Can solve problems by applying their Mathematics

At Butterknowle, these skills are embedded within Maths lessons and developed consistently over time. We are committed to ensuring that children are able to recognise the importance of Maths in the wider world and that they are also able to use their mathematical skills and knowledge confidently in their lives in a range of different contexts. We want all children to enjoy Mathematics and to experience success in the subject, with the ability to reason mathematically. We are committed to developing children's curiosity about the subject, as well as an appreciation of the beauty and power of Mathematics.

## Implementation

The content and principles underpinning the 2014 Mathematics curriculum and the Maths curriculum at Butterknowle reflect those found in high-performing education systems internationally, particularly those of east and south-east Asian countries such as Singapore, Japan, South Korea and China. These principles and features characterise this approach and convey how our curriculum is implemented:

- Teachers reinforce an expectation that all children are capable of achieving high standards in Mathematics.
- The large majority of children progress through the curriculum content at the same pace.
- Differentiation is achieved by emphasising deep knowledge and through individual support and intervention.
- Teaching is underpinned by methodical curriculum design and supported by carefully crafted lessons and resources to foster deep conceptual and procedural knowledge.
- Practice and consolidation play a central role. Carefully designed variation within this builds fluency and understanding of underlying mathematical concepts.
- Teachers use precise questioning in class to test conceptual and procedural knowledge and assess children regularly to identify those requiring intervention, so that all children keep up.

To ensure whole consistency and progression, the school uses Hamilton Trust Maths which provides a short block, spiral curriculum and comprehensively supports the range of mixed age classes in our school. New concepts are often shared within the context of an initial related problem, which children are able to discuss in partners. This initial problem-solving activity prompts discussion and reasoning, as well as promoting an awareness of maths in relatable real-life contexts that link to other areas of learning. In KS1, these problems are almost always presented with objects (concrete manipulatives) for children to use. Children may also use manipulatives in KS2. Teachers use careful question to draw out children's discussions and their reasoning. The class teacher then leads children through strategies for solving the problem, including those already discussed. Independent work provides the means for all children to develop their fluency further, before progressing to more complex related problems. Mathematical topics are taught in short blocks, with topics being re-visited periodically so as to enable the achievement of 'mastery' over time. Each lesson phase provides the means to achieve greater depth, with more able children being offered rich and

sophisticated problems, as well as exploratory, investigative tasks, within the lesson as appropriate.

## **Impact**

The school has a supportive ethos and our approaches support the children in developing their collaborative and independent skills, as well as empathy and the need to recognise the achievement of others. Students can underperform in Mathematics because they think they can't do it or are not naturally good at it. We aim to address these preconceptions by ensuring that all children experience challenge and success in Mathematics by developing a growth mindset. Regular and ongoing assessment informs teaching, as well as intervention, to support and enable the success of each child. These factors ensure that we are able to maintain high standards, with achievement at the end of KS2 well above the national average and a high proportion of children demonstrating greater depth, at the end of each phase.

## **2. Teaching and Learning**

A typical lesson lasts approximately 1 hour. Maths is taught daily during the morning. Children have a short 'Fluent in Five' activity which supports fluency in and recall of number facts along with development of mental and arithmetic skills. Following this, the main lesson begins with a 'Thinking Together' stage, when an initial question is shared for the children to discuss in partners. This helps promote discussion and ensures that mathematical ideas are introduced in a logical way to support conceptual understanding. In KS1, these questions are almost always presented with objects (concrete manipulatives) for children to use. Children may also use manipulatives in KS2. Teachers use careful questions to draw out children's discussions and their reasoning and the children learn from misconceptions through whole class reasoning.

Following this, the children are presented with varied similar problems which they might discuss with a partner or within a small group. At this point, scaffolding is carefully reduced to prepare children for independent practice. During this part of the lesson the children might record some of their working out in their Maths books or on a mini whiteboard. The teacher uses this part of the lesson to address any initial errors and confirm the different methods and strategies that can be used. The class then progress to the 'Practice' part of the lesson, which is designed to be completed independently. This practice uses conceptual and procedural variation to build fluency and develop greater understanding of underlying mathematical concepts. A challenge question and links to other areas of Maths encourages children to take their understanding to a greater level of depth. Children who complete this are provided with further, more involved, problems which they complete in their own maths book. The final part of the sequence is a 'reflect' task. This is an opportunity for children to review, reason and reflect on learning and enable the teacher to gauge their depth of understanding.

## **3. Assessment**

### **3.1 Assessment for Learning:**

Children receive effective feedback through teacher assessment, both orally and through written feedback, and AFL is integral to the design of each lesson;

- The structure of the teaching sequence, ensures that children know how to be successful in their independent work. Guided practice, which takes place within the 'Think Together' part of the lesson, provides further preparation for children to be able to apply the skills, knowledge and strategies taught during later phases of the

lesson. Common misconceptions are addressed within the teaching sequence and key understanding within each 'small step' is reviewed and checked by the teacher and the children before progression to further depth.

- At the end of the lesson, the children review their work.

### **3.2 Formative Assessment:**

Short term assessment is a feature of each lesson. Observations and careful questioning enable teachers to adjust lessons and brief other adults in the class if necessary. At the end of each blocked unit of work, the children also complete the carefully aligned White Rose Maths 'End of Unit Assessment'. The outcome of this is used by the teacher to ensure that any identified gaps in understanding can be addressed before the next unit is taught. Each child's scores are also input on a class spreadsheet, which provides an overview of achievement in each specific area within the programme of study. This also informs dialogue with parents and carers during open evenings, as well as the judgements made at the end of the term as to the extent that each child has demonstrated mastery of each 'fundamental' objective.

### **3.3 Summative Assessment:**

Teachers administer a termly arithmetic paper and reasoning and problem-solving paper which specifically links to the coverage for that term. The results of these papers are used to identify children's ongoing target areas, which are communicated to the children, as well as to parents and carers at Parents Evening. They are also used alongside the end of unit assessments and outcomes of work, to inform the whole school tracking of attainment and progress for each child in line with each 'fundamental' objective.

Assessment data in maths is reviewed throughout the year to inform interventions and to also ensure that provision remains well-informed to enable optimum progress and achievement. End of year data is used to measure the extent to which attainment gaps for individuals and identified groups of learners are being closed. This data is used to inform whole school and subject development priorities for the next school year.

## **4. Planning and Resources**

The use of Mathematics resources is integral to the concrete – pictorial – abstract approach and thus planned into teaching and learning. The school has a wide variety of good quality equipment and resources, both tangible and ICT based, to support our learning and teaching.

These resources are used by our teachers and children in a number of ways including:

- Demonstrating or modelling an idea, an operation or method of calculation. Resources for this purpose would include: a number line; place value cards; dienes; place value counters and grids; money or coins; measuring equipment for capacity, mass and length; bead strings; the interactive whiteboards and related software; 3D shapes and/or nets; Numicon and related resources and software; multilink cubes; clocks; protractors; calculators; dice; number and fractions' fans; individual whiteboards and pens; and 2D shapes and pattern blocks, amongst other things
- Enabling children to use a calculation strategy or method that they couldn't do without help, by using any of the above or other resources as required Standard resources, such as number lines, multi-link cubes, dienes, hundred squares and counters are located within individual classrooms. Resources within individual classes are accessible to all children who should be encouraged to be responsible for their use.

Further resources (often larger items shared by the whole school) are also available as part of a central supply. Interactive resources for the purpose of modelling strategies is available to all teachers as part of the Hamilton Trust scheme. Resources are also to support teachers' own professional development and understanding of new approaches as part of a mastery approach

Teachers are encouraged to use the school playgrounds as an outdoor classroom when possible, for example, when teaching length, area or perimeter.

## **5. Organisation**

The school has implemented Hamilton's short blocks as a pedagogically progressive route through the maths curriculum. Their use allows for a skill-based approach to the order in which cover specific mathematical topics are. These short blocks include pedagogy, learning activities, Extra Support, Mastery Questions and in-depth problem-solving investigations.

## **6. EYFS**

Children in Nursery have a short daily Maths teaching session, during which time they begin to develop their understanding of simple mathematical concepts such as counting to 20, maintaining 1 to 1 correspondence, simple addition and subtraction facts, to recognise and describe simple 2d and 3d shapes. Children are taught these concepts using physical resources, pictorial resources, songs, games and role-play. There is no focus activity linked to these sessions.

In Reception, children have a three part lesson from Autumn 1. This consists of:

1. Whole class oral and mental starter - 5 minutes
2. Whole class main teaching - 10 minutes
3. Focus activity for 8 children, grouped according to current attainment and taught in a ratio of 2 or 3 children to 1 adult

Throughout the week a child will work with an adult - either a teacher or a supporting adult - on a differentiated task. This activity is completed in 10 - 15 minutes. This structure to the lesson enables teachers to secure a good balance between whole class work, group teaching and individual practice. It also enables teachers to establish regular routines thereby maximising teaching time. It supports assessment on a daily basis, as well as individual feedback to children, ensuring that children receive immediate intervention as required during the supported focus activity. In both Nursery and Reception, the independent activities at the Maths table link to the focus for the week. For example, if the focus for the week is addition, then activities on the Maths will often link to this. In addition to these planned independent activities, children also have the opportunity to self-select Maths resources to consolidate their learning during child initiated activities. We recognise the importance of play-based learning and therefore encourage children to develop their understanding during their play. Such opportunities are provided in both the inside and outside environment. Regular observations and assessments help to ensure that children that need additional intervention to consolidate their mathematical understanding are identified and supported by appropriate interventions.

## **7. KS1 and KS2**

As acknowledged by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) and the Maths Hub programme – 'The use of well-designed and tested textbooks is critical for the successful implementation of teaching for mastery. A good textbook is both an aid for the teacher in planning lessons and for the children during lessons and working on their own.'

Through Years 1 to 6 we use a coherent programme of high-quality materials and exercises, which are structured with great care to build deep conceptual knowledge alongside developing procedural fluency.

Our KS1 and KS2 teachers use resources from Hamilton Trust's Mathematics Plans which provide extensive support and excellent resources for mixed-age groups. These resources are arranged in short blocks and, over the course of the academic year, all units of the 2014 National Curriculum are covered. Short term planning is done on a weekly basis, and includes the preparation of success criteria which accompany the learning intentions for each lesson. Teachers also plan activities and additional tasks which offer support and also provide further challenge for children who are able to progress further in their learning.

Lessons in both key stages follow the same sequence (see section 2: Teaching and Learning). In KS1, the teacher might use 'mini-plenaries' to explain each question during the children's completion of the practice book and also to check children's understanding before they complete the next question. This ensures that all children are able to complete the task with confidence.

## **8. Equal Opportunities**

The school is committed to ensuring the active participation and progress of all children in their learning.

All children will be given equal opportunities to achieve their best possible standard, whatever their current attainment and irrespective of gender, ethnic, social or cultural background, home language or any other aspect that could affect their participation or the progress of which they are capable.

## **9. Inclusion**

Taking a mastery approach, differentiation occurs in the support and intervention provided to different children, not in the topics taught, particularly at earlier stages. The National Curriculum states:

'Children who grasp concepts rapidly should be challenged through being offered rich and sophisticated problems before any acceleration through new content. Those who are not sufficiently fluent with earlier material should consolidate their understanding, including through additional practice, before moving on.'

There is little differentiation in the content taught but the questioning and scaffolding individual children receive in class as they work through problems will differ, with higher attainers challenged through more demanding problems, which deepen their knowledge of the same content before acceleration onto new content. Children's difficulties and misconceptions are identified through immediate formative assessment and addressed with rapid intervention – commonly through individual or small group support later the same day. A range of inclusion strategies, as listed on the school's inclusion planning key, are embedded in practice and teachers are aware of the special educational needs of the children in their Maths class, as well as those who have English as an additional language. Although the expectation is that the majority of children will move through the programmes of study at broadly the same pace, the 2014 National Curriculum states:

'Decisions about when to progress should always be based on the security of children's understanding and their readiness to progress to the next stage.'

If a child's needs are best met by following an alternative plan, including coverage of the content from a previous year, this will be overseen by the SENCo, in collaboration with the class teacher and with the knowledge of SMT. Specific arrangements for the provision of children with SEND will be communicated to parents and carers during SEND reviews.

## 10. Role of the Subject Leader

- The subject leader will raise the profile of Maths at Butterknowle Primary School through best practice. They will model lessons, as appropriate to new staff, NQTs and peers to support continued professional development. They will ensure the high quality of Maths displays around the school, present certificates of achievement during end of term assemblies and involve the school in 'celebrations' of Maths, including participation in events such as 'World Maths Day'. The subject leader will support staff in providing opportunities for learning outside the classroom in Maths and will identify and organise opportunities which enable this, as appropriate.
- The subject leader will monitor progression and continuity of Maths throughout the school through lesson observations and regular monitoring of outcomes of work in Maths exercise books.
- The subject leader will ensure that all staff have access to year group plans and the relevant resources which accompany them.
- The subject leader will monitor children's progress through the analysis of whole school data. They will use this data to inform the subject development plan which will detail how standards in the subject are to be maintained and developed further.
- The subject leader will, on a regular basis, organise, audit and purchase central and class-based Maths resources.
- The subject leader will extend relationships and make contacts beyond the school.
- The subject leader will develop opportunities for parents/carers to become more involved in Maths education.
- The subject leader will ensure that all staff have access to professional development including observations of outstanding practice in the subject.

## 11. Parents

- The school recognises that parents and carers have a valuable role to play in supporting their child's mathematical learning. An overview of the Maths curriculum is available on the school's website, as well as guidance in the progression in calculation methods used by the school. Paper copies of these documents are also available on request and the curriculum letter, sent home by each year group, also outlines the Maths topics to be covered.
- Activities which link to each Maths topic are suggested for parents and carers to try at home with their child in each Reception newsletter.
- Parents are informed of their child's progress at Parents Evenings and this is also communicated in written school reports.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to speak to their child's Maths teacher at any point during the year, either informally or by making a specific appointment. Information about their child's standards, achievements and future targets in Maths is shared during parent/carer meetings, as well as ways that parents/carers may be able to assist with their child's learning.
- The school also provides a number of opportunities for parents/carers to learn about what their child is learning and the way their child is being taught through parent workshops.