

Numeracy Policy

'We need to undo the myth that it is acceptable to be poor at maths'

(Charles Clarke, Secretary of State for Education)

Numeracy skills in the working-age population are a concern (approximately 25% of the population have low Numeracy skills). Men with poor literacy were more prone to unemployment, more likely to be in manual jobs, less likely to have had work related training and more likely to earn a low weekly wage. For women numeracy still had an impact; only one in four with poor numeracy held a full time job, contrasted with over two fifths of those with competent numeracy. What this study shows is that numeracy has a significant and sustained impact on adults' lives, especially their chances in the labour market. (Basic Skills Agency)

What is numeracy?

Numeracy is the ability to use and understand numbers in everyday situations. Numeracy demands a practical understanding of the ways in which information is gathered by counting and measuring and is presented in graphs, diagrams, charts and tables. Mathematics or numeracy is a natural tool to be used throughout the Curriculum- it is a key skill and also a life skill. A cross-curricular approach should benefit the whole curriculum and increase meaning and motivation for pupils. The promotion of numeracy is the responsibility of all teachers.

What should a numerate pupil be able to do?

- Be confident and competent with numbers and measures
- Have a sense of the size of a number
- Have a range of mental and written calculation strategies
- Have the inclination and ability to solve number problems in context
- Be able to estimate and know when their answers are reasonable
- Be able to explain their methods and reasoning
- Understand and explain how information can be gathered and presented

School Numeracy Policy

- Continue to raise standards by keeping numeracy a top priority, primarily by involvement in the School Improvement Programme with NEELB.
- Help children develop mathematical skills necessary to link maths to everyday life
- Help children develop confidence, a positive attitude and a fascination for mathematics
- Encourage children to develop independent thinking, a methodical approach to solving problems and communicate their ideas
- Encourage children to be accurate and check 'reasonableness' of answers
- Work with subject departments to provide opportunities for pupils to apply and develop numeracy skills across the curriculum
- Use effective homework
- Use ICT as a means of enhancing mathematical skills

