

What is Numeracy?

Numeracy is the application of mathematical ideas to everyday life.

Being numerate involves developing an ability and confidence in using numbers, that allows us to function responsibly, and contribute effectively to society. Good numeracy skills are necessary for successful learning, and are essential for life after school.

Whilst numeracy is a subset of mathematics, it is also a core skill which permeates *all* areas of learning. In both the primary and secondary sectors, *all* teachers have a responsibility for promoting the development of numeracy. They will actively seek opportunities to reinforce essential numeracy skills by making links between different curricular areas, and with the real world.

The Curriculum for Excellence numeracy/maths outcomes are organised under the following headings:

- * **Estimating and Rounding**
- * **Number and Number Processes** (how numbers are structured; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; negative numbers)
- * **Fractions, Decimals and Percentages**
- * **Ratio and Proportion**
- * **Money**
- * **Time**
- * **Measurement**
- * **Data and Analysis** (interpreting tables, graphs and charts)
- * **Ideas of Chance and Uncertainty** (probability)

What does a good maths lesson look like?

As in *all* good lessons, in a good maths lesson, pupils will have opportunities to do one or more of the following things:

- * **actively engage in their learning**, through discussion and 'hands on' activities.
- * **experience real and relevant contexts** (e.g. costing a trip or event)
- * **work collaboratively and independently**
- * **ask and answer questions**
- * **solve problems**
- * **explain their thinking**
- * **use technology** (e.g. computers, interactive whiteboards, programmable toys, cameras)
- * **make links with other curricular areas** (e.g. measuring materials in technology, or quantities of liquids in science)
- * **reflect on and evaluate their own learning, and that of others** (self and peer assessment)

Learners learn best when they understand clearly what they are trying to learn, and how they will know if they have been successful. At the start of each lesson, teachers will share learning intentions with their pupils and negotiate 'success criteria'.

Pupils are encouraged to reflect upon their progress, and will be supported with planning the next steps in their learning through regular discussion with their teachers and their peers.

How are we promoting the development of essential maths skills at Newtyle?

- * **Concept Cartoons:** P6/7 have been using Concept Cartoons to promote open ended thinking and discussion within a maths context
- * **Maths Bags:** P3-5 use fun board games to support thinking in all areas of maths
- * **Interactive Mental Maths:** All classes deliver daily interactive maths to develop skills in mental calculation
- * **PACT (Practical Applications of Contextualised Teaching):** All stages develop problem solving capabilities and essential maths skills through real life contexts, an excellent example of this is in P6/7. They use the garden area as a context for measurement.
- * **Education City:** All classes use this computer package to reinforce learning. Children think they are playing when in fact they are learning
- * **Go Maths:** P1/2 have piloted Go Maths which is a practical approach to teaching early number skills, often using the Interactive Whiteboard
- * **Sharing Learning Intentions and Success Criteria:** All staff have started to make progress at sharing with the children what they will learn and how they will know if they have been successful (sometimes called WALT—We are learning to, and WILF—What I'm looking for)

How can you help your child at home?

Support

Patience

Interest

Challenge

Encouragement

Below are listed just some of the ways in which you can help your child develop essential maths skills at home.

Activities like these are fun to do but, remember;

You can make a real difference simply by listening and talking to your child about their learning.

Pre-school-P3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* number songs, stories and rhymes* shopping and baking* sorting by shape, colour etc./matching e.g. pairing of socks
P4 - P 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* board/card games* telling the time /timetables, using a TV Guide* weighing and measuring* planning a journey, taking into account time, distance, mode of transport* interpreting tables and charts e.g. weather statistics* costing an event/item e.g. choosing a mobile

Where can parents get further information about Maths/Numeracy?

Useful Websites:

Have Sum Fun - series of games designed for children aged 3-8

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/numeracy/findresources/sumfun.asp>

BBC Schools—Suggestions about how parents can help at home (pre-school)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/work/primary/numeracy_and_science/maths_at_home_preschool.shtml

BBC Schools—Suggestions about how parents can help at home (primary)

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/work/primary/numeracy_and_science/maths_at_home_primary.shtml

BBC Schools - numeracy page for 4-11 year olds with advice for parents

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numeracy.shtml

Murderous Maths! - problem solving and topic-based challenges for upper primary and secondary pupils

<http://www.murderousmaths.co.uk>

I Love Maths! - fun maths games and puzzles for upper primary and secondary pupils

<http://www.ilovemathsgames.com>

You are encouraged to discuss the information in this leaflet with your child's school.

Newtyle Primary School

Maths and a Curriculum for Excellence



A guide for parents and carers