

Year 3 - Mathematics

Purpose of study

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.

Aims

The national curriculum for mathematics aims to ensure that all pupils:

- become **fluent** in the fundamentals of mathematics, including through varied and frequent practice with increasingly complex problems over time, so that pupils develop conceptual understanding and the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately.
- **reason mathematically** by following a line of enquiry, conjecturing relationships and generalisations, and developing an argument, justification or proof using mathematical language
- can **solve problems** by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems with increasing sophistication, including breaking down problems into a series of simpler steps and persevering in seeking solutions.

Mathematics is an interconnected subject in which pupils need to be able to move fluently between representations of mathematical ideas. The programmes of study are, by necessity, organised into apparently distinct domains, but **pupils should make rich connections across mathematical ideas** to develop fluency, mathematical reasoning and competence in solving increasingly sophisticated problems. They should also apply their mathematical knowledge to science and other subjects.

The expectation is that the majority of pupils will move through the programmes of study at broadly the same pace. However, decisions about when to progress should always be based on the security of pupils' understanding and their readiness to progress to the next stage. **Pupils 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.

Information and communication technology (ICT)

Calculators should not be used as a substitute for good written and mental arithmetic. They should therefore only be introduced near the end of key stage 2 to support pupils' conceptual understanding and exploration of more complex number problems, if written and mental arithmetic are secure. In both primary and secondary schools, teachers should use their judgement about when ICT tools should be used.

Spoken language

The national curriculum for mathematics reflects the importance of spoken language in pupils' development across the whole curriculum – cognitively, socially and linguistically. The quality and variety of language that pupils hear and speak are key factors in developing their mathematical vocabulary and presenting a mathematical justification, argument or proof. **They must be assisted in making their thinking clear to themselves as well as others and teachers** should ensure that pupils build secure foundations by using discussion to probe and remedy their misconceptions.

Lower Key Stage 2 Mathematics (Years 3 & 4)

The principal focus of mathematics teaching in lower key stage 2 is to ensure that pupils become increasingly fluent with whole numbers and the four operations, including number facts and the concept of place value. This should ensure that pupils develop efficient written and mental methods and perform calculations accurately with increasingly large whole numbers.

At this stage, pupils should develop their ability to solve a range of problems, including with simple fractions and decimal place value. Teaching should also ensure that pupils draw with increasing accuracy and develop mathematical reasoning so they can analyse shapes and their properties, and confidently describe the relationships between them. It should ensure that they can use measuring instruments with accuracy and make connections between measure and number.

By the end of year 4, pupils should have memorised their multiplication tables up to and including the 12 multiplication table and show precision and fluency in their work.

Pupils should read and spell mathematical vocabulary correctly and confidently, using their growing word reading knowledge and their knowledge of spelling.

Year 3 – Overview

Number and place

Pupils now use multiples of 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 50 and 100.

They use larger numbers to at least 1000, applying partitioning related to place value using varied and increasingly complex problems, building on work in year 2 (for example, $146 = 100 + 40$ and $6, 146 = 130 + 16$).

Using a variety of representations, including those related to measure, pupils continue to count in ones, tens and hundreds, so that they become fluent in the order and place value of numbers to 1000.

Fractions and Decimals

Pupils connect tenths to place value, decimal measures and to division by 10.

They begin to understand unit and non-unit fractions as numbers on the number line, and deduce relations between them, such as size and equivalence. They should go beyond the $[0, 1]$ interval, including relating this to measure.

Pupils understand the relation between unit fractions as operators (fractions of), and division by integers.

They continue to recognise fractions in the context of parts of a whole, numbers, measurements, a shape, and unit fractions as a division of a quantity.

Pupils practise adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator through a variety of increasingly complex problems to improve fluency.

Calculation

Pupils practise solving varied addition and subtraction questions. For mental calculations with two-digit numbers, the answers could exceed 100.

Pupils use their understanding of place value and partitioning, and practise using columnar addition and subtraction with increasingly large numbers up to three digits to become fluent (see [Mathematics Appendix 1](#)).

Pupils continue to practise their mental recall of multiplication tables when they are calculating mathematical statements in order to improve fluency. Through doubling, they connect the 2, 4 and 8 multiplication tables.

Pupils develop efficient mental methods, for example, using commutativity and associativity (for example, $4 \times 12 \times 5 = 4 \times 5 \times 12 = 20 \times 12 = 240$) and multiplication and division facts (for example, using $3 \times 2 = 6$, $6 \div 3 = 2$ and $2 = 6 \div 3$) to derive related facts (for example, $30 \times 2 = 60$, $60 \div 3 = 20$ and $20 = 60 \div 3$).

Pupils develop reliable written methods for multiplication and division, starting with calculations of two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers and progressing to the formal written methods of short multiplication and division.

Pupils solve simple problems in contexts, deciding which of the four operations to use and why. These include measuring and scaling contexts, (for example, four times as high, eight times as long etc.) and correspondence problems in which m objects are connected to n objects (for example, 3 hats and 4 coats, how many different outfits?; 12 sweets shared equally between 4 children; 4 cakes shared equally between 8 children).

Measurement

Pupils continue to measure using the appropriate tools and units, progressing to using a wider range of measures, including comparing and using mixed units (for example, 1 kg and 200g) and simple equivalents of mixed units (for example, 5m = 500cm).

The comparison of measures includes simple scaling by integers (for example, a given quantity or measure is twice as long or five times as high) and this connects to multiplication.

Pupils continue to become fluent in recognising the value of coins, by adding and subtracting amounts, including mixed units, and giving change using manageable amounts. They record £ and p separately. The decimal recording of money is introduced formally in year 4.

Pupils use both analogue and digital 12-hour clocks and record their times. In this way they become fluent in and prepared for using digital 24-hour clocks in year 4.

Geometry – Properties of Shape

Pupils' knowledge of the properties of shapes is extended at this stage to symmetrical and non-symmetrical polygons and polyhedra. Pupils extend their use of the properties of shapes. They should be able to describe the properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes using accurate language, including lengths of lines and acute and obtuse for angles greater or lesser than a right angle.

Pupils connect decimals and rounding to drawing and measuring straight lines in centimetres, in a variety of contexts.

Statistics

Pupils understand and use simple scales (for example, 2, 5, 10 units per cm) in pictograms and bar charts with increasing accuracy.

They continue to interpret data presented in many contexts.

Using & Applying – Problem Solving, Investigating, Reasoning & Communicating – for all abilities

Year 3 Key Objectives		
Number and place value	Calculation	
<i>Pupils should be taught to:</i> - count from 0 in multiples of 4, 8, 50 and 100 - find 10 or 100 more or less than a given number - recognise the place value of each digit in a three-digit number (hundreds, tens, ones) - compare and order numbers up to 1000 - identify, represent and estimate numbers using different representations - read and write numbers up to 1000 in numerals and in words - solve number problems and practical problems involving these ideas.	<i>Pupils should be taught to:</i> - add and subtract numbers mentally, including: - a three-digit number and ones - a three-digit number and tens - a three-digit number and hundreds - add and subtract numbers with up to three digits, using formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction - estimate the answer to a calculation and use inverse operations to check answers - solve problems, including missing number problems, using number facts, place value, and more complex addition and subtraction.	<i>Pupils should be taught to:</i> - recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables - write and calculate mathematical statements for multiplication and division using the multiplication tables that they know, including for two-digit numbers times one-digit numbers, using mental and progressing to formal written methods - solve problems, including missing number problems, involving multiplication and division, - solve positive integer scaling problems and correspondence problems in which n objects are connected to m objects.
Fractions and Decimals	Measures	Geometry
<i>Pupils should be taught to:</i> - count up and down in tenths; recognise that tenths arise from dividing an object into 10 equal parts and in dividing one-digit numbers or quantities by 10 - recognise, find and write fractions of a discrete set of objects: unit fractions and non-unit fractions with small denominators - recognise and use fractions as numbers: unit fractions and non-unit fractions with small denominators - recognise and show, using diagrams, equivalent fractions with small denominators - add and subtract fractions with the same denominator within one whole [for example, $\frac{5}{7} + \frac{1}{7} = \frac{6}{7}$] - compare and order unit fractions, and fractions with the same denominators - solve problems that involve fractions and decimals	<i>Pupils should be taught to:</i> - measure, compare, add and subtract: lengths (m/cm/mm); mass (kg/g); volume/capacity (l/ml) - measure the perimeter of simple 2-D shapes - add and subtract amounts of money to give change, using both £ and p in practical contexts - tell and write the time from an analogue clock, including using Roman numerals from I to XII, and 12-hour and 24-hour clocks - estimate and read time with increasing accuracy to the nearest minute - record and compare time in terms of seconds, minutes and hours - use vocabulary such as o'clock, a.m./p.m., morning, afternoon, noon and midnight - know the number of seconds in a minute and the number of days in each month, year and leap year - compare durations of events [for example to calculate the time taken by particular events or tasks].	<i>Pupils should be taught to:</i> - draw 2-D shapes and make 3-D shapes using modelling materials; recognise 3-D shapes in different orientations and describe them - recognise angles as a property of shape or a description of a turn - identify right angles - recognise that two right angles make a half-turn, three make three quarters of a turn and four a complete turn - identify whether angles are greater than or less than a right angle - identify horizontal and vertical lines - identify pairs of perpendicular and parallel lines in shapes
		Statistics <i>Pupils should be taught to:</i> - interpret and present data using bar charts, pictograms and tables - solve one-step and two-step questions using information presented in scaled bar charts and pictograms and tables [for example, 'How many more?' and 'How many fewer?']
Using & Applying – Problem Solving, Investigating, Reasoning & Communicating – for all abilities		