

PARKLEE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Progression of mental calculations policy



The following mental calculation policy has been devised to meet requirements of the National Curriculum 2014 for the teaching and learning of mathematics, and is also designed to give pupils a consistent and smooth progression of learning in mental calculations across the school. The purpose of this policy is to offer guidance on teaching effective mental strategies for calculation.

Rationale

The ability to calculate 'in your head' is an important part of mathematics and an important part of coping with society's demands and managing everyday events. The national curriculum makes clear that children should learn number facts by heart and be taught to develop a range of mental strategies for quickly finding from known facts a range of related facts that they cannot recall rapidly

Key Beliefs

At Parklee we believe that mental strategies should be taught every day, giving children a range of practical opportunities to develop key skills and include reasoning and communicating

Aim

The overall aim is that when children leave Parklee they:

- Have a secure knowledge of number facts
- Are able to solve problems mentally, selecting an efficient strategy from a range of known approaches
- Make use of diagrams and informal notes to help record steps when using mental methods that generate more information than can be kept in their heads
- Can quickly identify when a mental strategy is not appropriate and in these cases have an efficient, reliable written method which they can turn to (see calculations strategy for more details of how these are taught)

Fast Maths

We use Fast Maths to support the teaching of maths throughout the School. All children in years 1-6 complete a Fast Maths test at least 3 times a week. This focuses on rapid recall of key number facts. For example in year 1 the children initially start with number bonds to 5. The children are given a set amount of time to complete as many questions as possible ensuring they make as few errors as possible. The aim of Fast Maths is to see the children's scores improving rapidly and less errors being made.

Progression of Mental Calculations

Throughout school, children need to review, consolidate and build on mental calculation skills. The table below shows the progression in mental calculation with whole numbers, including the recall of number facts, and fractions, decimals and percentages. It also outlines the facts that children should be able to rapidly recall by the end of each year group.