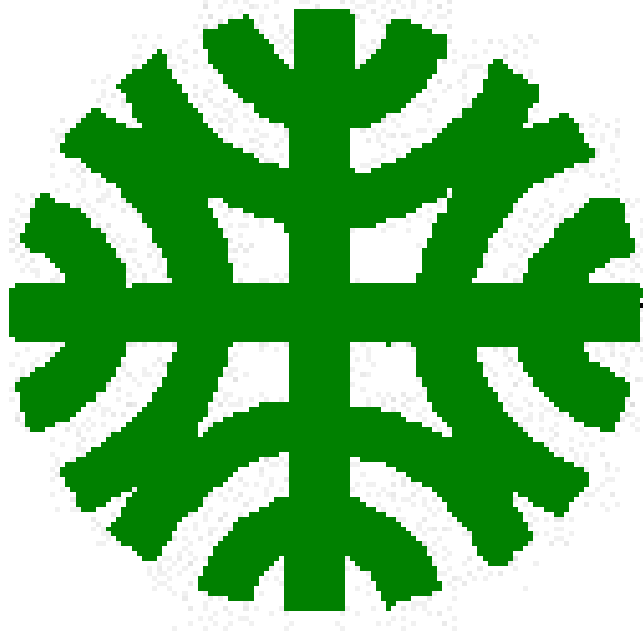


St Finian's Primary School



Numeracy Policy

Approved by Board of Governors: _____

Review Date: January 2029

Through the example of Christ, we as a Catholic School work together to provide a caring, safe, inclusive environment, in which we nurture the faith, knowledge and values of all the children and members of the school community as we journey together and grow in love together in the Kingdom of God.

INTRODUCTION

This policy has been compiled by the Mathematics Co-ordinator and agreed by the Staff of St Finian's Primary School.

It is the intention of the school to meet the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

PURPOSE

The strategy for the promotion of Numeracy within the School Improvement Programme for Northern Ireland forms the basis for this policy.

It is the intention that through its implementation we continue to maintain and improve the standards of numeracy throughout St Finian's Primary School.

The aims of this policy are to:

- ❖ Address the whole school audience
- ❖ Set out principles which aim to enhance the quality of teaching and learning
- ❖ Identify the roles, which each member of staff has in the promotion of numeracy
- ❖ Ensure that staff are aware of the teaching approaches associated with numeracy.

It is our view that numeracy is much more than 'arithmetic' i.e. knowing about number operations.

We believe that numeracy includes an ability to:

- ❖ Use and apply mathematical skills (Processes in Mathematics) to problem-solving in a range of contexts;
- ❖ Appreciate and understand information presented in tables and charts;
- ❖ Gather information by counting and measuring;
- ❖ Collate numerical information and select appropriate ways to display it;
- ❖ Appreciate pattern within number
- ❖ Explore and understand properties of 2D and 3D shapes
- ❖ Appreciate concepts of position, movement and direction.

It is our opinion that if individuals are to cope effectively with the practical demands of everyday life they need to be at ease with numbers within computation, measurement, handling data and problem solving.

In essence numeracy and mathematics are one and the same.

In addition to the general principles of Mathematics we have highlighted the key principles for the 5 attainment targets in line with the Programmes of Study for Key Stages 1 and 2. It is our belief that each principle conveys good practice in teaching Mathematics.

PRACTICES

PLANNING

In St Finian's Primary School it is our belief that the pupils' learning process will be reflected in our planning. Our planning is as follows:

- A scheme of work for all year groups.
- A line of progression within each attainment target.
- Each year group will adhere to the scheme of work and plan collaboratively to ensure continuity and progression.
- Year Groups plan in six weekly blocks.
- Plans will show learning intentions for all areas of maths.
- Use of mathematical language and methods will be consistent throughout the school.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT/ TEACHING STRATEGIES

In St Finian's Primary School Mathematics will be allocated an appropriate proportion of the curriculum.

Mathematics lessons will be managed as follows:

Mental Maths

- Lessons will begin with a 5 or 10 minute mental maths session three times a week to develop thinking skills and verbalise strategies.
- Pupils will develop thinking skills, verbalise strategies and learn to ask questions.
- Confidence will be built to raise self esteem.
- Appropriate and stimulating resources will be used e.g. Follow Me cards, Paired Cards, Four in a Row etc (ref: Mental maths activities) as well as Interactive Board Activities.

Core lesson

- Whole class, group work, paired and individual work.
- Groups will be given work appropriate to their level.
- Opportunities will be given for teacher/pupil discussion and pupil /pupil discussion
- Appropriate use of practical resources.

A variety of stimulating activities will be provided e.g. Investigations and problem solving activities, ICT resources as well as practice and consolidation of basic skills.

Conclusion

- Time for reflection and evaluation of success will be given.

DIFFERENTIATION / SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Pupils learn in different ways and at their own pace.

- IEP's are written for SEN pupils in conjunction with Special Needs teacher and SENCO.
- SEN pupils are withdrawn from class and given support in Mathematics depending on need and resources.
- Within the classroom setting all pupils are provided with activities appropriate to their ability.

More mathematically able pupils are challenged with investigative, problem solving activities

ACTIVITY BASED LEARNING

In St Finian's Primary School emphasis is placed on use of practical materials.

In the Foundation Stage the play environment is essential. Pupils will be learning through Structured Play activities e.g. sand/water for Volume and Capacity, Shop for Measures and Money.

NORTHERN IRELAND CURRICULUM

- Classes will be expected to implement the Northern Ireland Curriculum as set out in the Legislation.
- Thinking skills and Personal Capabilities should be promoted and developed through investigative Mathematics.

MATHEMATICS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Where appropriate, Mathematics will be promoted across the curriculum and linked with other subject areas.

- **Literacy**- number through stories and rhymes, discussing ideas, explaining thinking
- **World around us**- interpreting data solve problems using measurement, shape and space.
- **PDMU** – Know what pupils can do in Maths, persevere and work with confidence
- **Arts** – patterns, making shapes. Creating pictures and models.
- **P.E.** – Number, S& S to enhance a variety of movements. Measure and record performance; analyse and interpret data where appropriate.

POSITIVE ATTITUDES TO MATHEMATICS

In St Finian's Primary School a positive attitude to Mathematics is developed as follows:

- Pupils are encouraged to enjoy mathematics through a variety of activities
- Confidence built and self esteem raised
- Teachers ensure that pupils experience success through positive marking and verbal feedback.
- Work is displayed
- Encouragement is given to become independent learners

USE OF I.C.T.

Mathematics is developed through ICT in a variety of ways e.g. C.B.A.s, Mental Maths games, data spreadsheets.

ASSESSMENT

Teachers are continually assessing pupils through:

- Observation, class discussion, independent and group tasks.
- Oral, written or visual presentations.
- Computer Based Assessment (Primary 6 2025)
- NFER Progress in Maths (Years 3-7)
- Detailed analysis of NFER Progress in Maths tests. Maths coordinator to identify and record pupils with low progress scores and pass this information to both present and future new teacher.

- Pupils with low / high progress scores tracked
- Questions with more than 10% lower than the standard are identified and recorded.
- Weakest / strongest strands in Processes and Attainment Targets are identified, informing Maths coordinator of area for Maths improvement.
- Monitoring files completed by Maths coordinator.

Staff Development

- Teachers are expected to keep up to date with subject knowledge and use current materials that are available in school or online.
- Training needs are identified as a result of whole school monitoring and evaluation, performance management and through induction programmes.
- These will be reflected in the School Development Plan.
- The Numeracy co-ordinator will arrange for relevant advice and information, such as feedback from courses to be disseminated.
- Where appropriate, the Numeracy co-ordinator leads or organises school based training.
- Additional adults who are involved with intervention programmes will receive appropriate training that may be school based or part of central training.

Assessment for learning

In St Finian's Primary School we will involve the pupils in their own learning by-

- Sharing learning intentions with them
- Developing their awareness of skills and knowledge being taught
- Developing awareness of strategies they use in their learning

RAISING THE PROFILE OF MATHEMATICS

It is our belief that, when appropriate, opportunities should be presented to raise the profile of Mathematics in St Finian's Primary School as follows:

- Parental involvement overview of Mathematics curriculum and assessment at start of September in each class. Interviews to discuss child's progress.
- Parents informed through Induction evening.
- Reporting to parents- following the guidelines from CEA.
- Information workshops for parents.
- Mathematics Maths Challenges
- Maths Day.
- Maths notice board clearly visible in school displaying pupils' work.
- Homework of a practical nature given at least once a month.

ROLE OF CO-ORDINATOR

- Co-ordinator disseminates new ideas and initiatives to all teachers.
- Offer knowledge support and guidance to staff.
- Revise schemes and policies
- Keep mathematics well resourced.
- Draw up a yearly Action Plan, discuss and agree with Principal, SLT and Staff. Also present Action Plan to Governors.
- Write an interim report to share with Link Governor each year.
- Analyse NFER test results. Discuss with Principal, SLT and Staff. Present to Governors.
- Monitor Maths through such means as an audit, book looks, staff discussion, and class observation when appropriate.

ROLE OF GOVERNORS

The Governors will be informed of the development in all areas of mathematics.