

PINNER WOOD SCHOOL



MATHS POLICY

Approval Authority

Effective From: September 2023

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Signed by Chair of GB:

Abstract

The Maths Policy at Pinner Wood School outlines the school's commitment to fostering a strong mathematical foundation for our students. This policy highlights our approach to curriculum design, teaching strategies, assessment methods and the importance of a growth mind-set, in line with our school vision:

'Growing as we learn, learning as we grow'

It emphasises the development of essential mathematical skills and concepts from the Early Years through to Key Stage 2, promoting a positive and inclusive learning environment where every child can thrive mathematically. Pinner Wood School's Maths Policy serves as a guiding framework to ensure that all our students are equipped with the skills and confidence to excel in maths, both in school and beyond.

Richard Parnell

Maths Lead

Introduction

At Pinner Wood, we are passionate about maths and its significance in our students' lives, both within our local community and the wider world. Our goal is to empower children to confidently apply their mathematical skills in real-life situations, fostering a love for learning and a positive mindset that embraces challenges and learning from mistakes.

Our teachers follow the White Rose Maths approach, which places a strong emphasis on a deep understanding of numbers. Our teaching method, known as CPA (Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract), ensures that we build mathematical concepts step by step, using clear models and visual aids. We prioritise depth of understanding over speed, ensuring that every child can truly grasp each concept. We provide hands-on manipulatives and engaging visuals to make maths come alive.

Each child at Pinner Wood has their own 'Maths passport', a child friendly document which accompanies them throughout their time here. This passport is designed to enhance their arithmetic skills, with weekly targets based on key number facts. We celebrate their achievements in school-wide assemblies and encourage them to Dream Big, aiming to reach the final milestone of 'The Sun.' during their upper key stage years.

By the time our students complete their time at Pinner Wood, we aim for them to:

- Demonstrate their understanding of mathematical concepts using manipulatives or written methods.
- Solve increasingly complex problems by breaking them down into manageable steps, persevering to achieve their goals.
- Apply their mathematical knowledge rapidly, choosing the most suitable methods for the task.
- Use their understanding of numbers, generalisations, and mathematical laws, such as the commutative property, to reason and solve problems effectively.

At Pinner Wood Primary School, we are dedicated to nurturing young mathematicians who enjoy learning; our children are resourceful, confident and well-prepared for their future mathematical adventures.

Teaching and Learning

At Pinner Wood School, our children are consistently presented with increasingly intricate problem solving challenges, thereby affording them the opportunity to apply their mathematical expertise. In the pursuit of this objective, students are actively encouraged to use their Oracy skills to formulate clear explanations. In addition to this staff strive for children to Enjoy Learning about maths; we celebrate mathematical achievements and regularly placing maths at the heart of our school community.

This approach encompasses the vital skill of deconstructing both arithmetic and reasoning problems into a systematic series of steps. Pinner Wood School places a strong emphasis on the foundational role of mathematical knowledge and skills in fostering a comprehensive understanding of the world.

To uphold these principles, we adhere to the National Curriculum Programmes of Study and implement the 'White Rose' maths schemes of work in the planning of high-quality lessons. Moreover, we ensure that our students are equipped with the requisite manipulative tools to adeptly engage in their problem solving endeavours.

For further information on the methods employed in the instruction of calculation and the progressive development of skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, the White Rose Calculation Policy is readily available for reference on the school website.

EYFS

At Pinner Wood School, maths holds a pivotal role in our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Establishing a solid foundation in maths is of utmost importance for our children; it equips them with the skills required to meet the Early Learning Goals and paves the way for continued progress in maths as pupils advance through their educational journey.

At Pinner Wood School, we recognise the fundamental importance of play-based learning in the teaching of maths in the EYFS. This approach is underpinned by the dedicated EYFS team, working collaboratively to nurture children's understanding and facilitate the acquisition of essential mathematical skills. We firmly believe that play serves as a central vehicle for achieving these educational goals.

Play not only provides an enjoyable experience but also serves as a powerful platform for modelling mathematical skills and introducing relevant vocabulary. It encourages children to embark on exploratory journeys and articulate their ideas, fostering an environment where they can freely express themselves. Moreover, play allows us to conduct informal assessments, thereby informing our strategic planning for subsequent learning activities.

In alignment with our commitment to play-based learning, adult-initiated activities are seamlessly integrated into the continuous provision. These activities act as catalysts for children's learning experiences, propelling them into engaging and purposeful mathematical exploration. This holistic approach ensures that children are actively immersed in a dynamic and enriching mathematical education. Our approach to teaching mathematical skills incorporates a balanced blend of adult-directed instruction and carefully structured enhancements to continuous provision. Within the EYFS environment, we have designed opportunities for children to engage with maths consistently. We offer a rich array of displays, manipulatives, and educational toys that are readily available to bolster learning in areas such as number recognition, pattern identification, shape, space, and measurements.

Key Stage 1 and 2

At Pinner Wood, our commitment is to establish a strong foundation for children in Key Stage 1, emphasising their understanding of number and number relationships. From Year 1 onwards, each student will participate in daily mathematics lessons designed to strike a balance between whole-class instruction, group-based learning, and individual practice.

To promote a deep understanding of maths learning, we employ a 'CPA (Concrete Pictorial Abstract) strategy'. This approach allows children to explore the physical aspects of maths, present their findings visually, and gradually transition to abstract methods of problem solving. Manipulatives are readily available to each child to facilitate this process.

Assessment

Formative assessment and adaptive teaching are at the core of every maths lesson at Pinner Wood. Teachers will adapt their teaching to meet the needs of every child in their class, offering interventions when they are required. In addition to this, at the end of each maths unit, children are assessed on their understanding of each unit. While these assessments inform teachers of which children require additional support they are also a tool for the Maths Leader to identify high attaining pupils. High attaining pupils in years 3 to 5 are invited to join Pinner Wood's Maths team; this is a weekly club led by the Maths Leader and aims to further develop the learning of these Pinner Wood children.

Enjoy Learning

Reducing maths anxiety is of paramount importance for staff at Pinner Wood and something we are constantly trying to improve. Our children are resilient problem solvers who seek strength through positivity. Walking around Pinner Wood you will see children wearing the Maths Award badge. These children have participated in the Weekly Maths challenge that is open to every child in the school. We are proud of all our pupils and continue to encourage them to achieve their full potential.