

NUMERACY

“Numeracy is a proficiency which is developed mainly in Mathematics but also in other subjects. It is more than an ability to do basic arithmetic. It involves developing confidence and competence with numbers and measures. It requires understanding of the number system, a repertoire of mathematical techniques and an inclination and ability to solve quantitative or spatial problems in a range of contexts. Numeracy also demands understanding of the ways in which data are gathered by counting and measuring and presented in graphs, diagrams, charts and tables.”

Secondary National Strategy, Mathematics at Key Stage 3

Numeracy is therefore not only a strand of mathematics, but is also a life skill which permeates and supports all areas of learning, allowing young people access to the wider curriculum. The numeracy experiences and outcomes can be grouped into eight key strands:

- Estimation and rounding
- Number and number processes
- Fractions, decimal fractions and percentages
- Money
- Time
- Measurements
- Data
- Ideas of chance and uncertainty/probability

These skills can be transferred to many everyday situations, including:

- Managing Money – financial planning, managing earnings, benefits and credit
- Managing a household or work related budget,
- estimating amounts in shopping situations
- Reading timetables, calculating distances and
- journey times, reading maps
- Estimating amounts of materials required for tasks at home and at work
- Interpreting information in graphs, tables and charts

All teachers within the Academy have a responsibility to promote the development of numeracy and provide opportunities for teaching within their own subject areas. The Academy is in the process of compiling a central register of all Maths and Numeracy teaching throughout the curriculum and providing resources to support the delivery of Numeracy.

Why is it important to be numerate?

Being numerate can give students life skills that are transferrable beyond the maths lesson. It can establish solid foundations to allow students to cope with the demands of everyday life. It can give them increased opportunities within the world of work and can help make them confident citizens. Being numerate helps them to function responsibly in everyday life and contribute to society. It allows them to make good judgements based on sound reasoning. Our aim is to make all our students numerate to maximise their life chances and make a positive contribution to society. There is substantial evidence that low numeracy skills are associated with poor outcomes for many people. This can have a negative impact on them and their families.

How can parents and carers support their children?

- Encourage your child to spend sufficient time on homework tasks
- Show an interest in what your child is doing. You may be able to relate the maths topic he/she is studying to a real life scenario
- Encourage your child to make use of the online resources to help independent study and his/her understanding
- Encourage your child to show each step of working out
- Emphasise the importance of persevering to succeed