## Maths Calculation Policy



Updated: February 2016



## **About Our Calculation Policy**

This documents is written for all adults working with our pupils; including teachers, teaching assistants, students, supply teachers and parents. It should be part of an induction package for all staff with inset as appropriate.

Our Calculation Policy has been devised to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum 2014, but most importantly the learning needs of our children at the Russell. The policy has been designed to give pupils a consistent and smooth progression of learning calculations across the school. Teachers should refer to this policy in all planning for calculations including cross curricular links.

The calculation policy is organised according to the requirements that need to be embedded in each year group of the primary curriculum as set out in the National Curriculum 2014; one set of mathematical concepts and big ideas for all. One of our fundamental mathematical Key principles; that this policy has been derived from, is the assumption that children use the language of maths correctly, so that children can develop mathematical concepts and also allows teachers to address misconceptions early and ensure that children have a firm understanding of key mathematical concepts before moving on.

It is vital that children are taught according to the 'stage' that they are working at, the transition between stages should not be hurried as not all children will be ready to move on to the next stage at the same time. Throughout this policy stages have been developed which introduces new concepts, outlines appropriate manipulatives and visual models, and what mathematical language is involved for a particular concept. Latter stages are for those children who are showing to have 'mastered' a concept, allowing them to apply their learning in a real life context further deepening their understanding. The new curriculum focuses on skills and mastery and is not about moving children on to the next method as soon as they can do the one before.

Written methods of calculations are based on mental strategies that have been taught using appropriate manipulatives and are only expected once a child has a clear understanding of the processes involved. This policy uses pictorial models that are consistent across year groups which means that skills can be taught, practised and reviewed constantly. These skills lead to more formal written methods of calculation.

Strategies for calculation need to be supported by familiar models and methods to reinforce understanding, such as the whole part model which children are exposed to throughout this policy. The written methods in this document are important but they by no means replace the superb mental methods we have developed. It is important for children to handle manipulatives to develop and reinforce understanding at all stages from Foundation to Year Six. A sound understanding of the number system and the value of a given number (place value) is essential for children to carry out calculations efficiently and accurately. Efficiency in calculation requires having a variety of mental strategies, which are carefully taught at a particular stage in a child's learning. Another key principle is the importance of 10, referred to as 'magic 10' (NCETM, 2015), which allows children to partition numbers to bridge 10, for example 9+6=9+1+5=15, which is helpful to make 10 as this makes this calculation easier.

Children need to be taught and encouraged to communicate their reasoning and thinking at all stages. Confidence in their ability in mathematics and calculations should be encouraged and supported with all children, fostering a 'can do' attitude. The long term aim is for our children to be able to select an efficient method of their own choice asking systematically:

Can I do this in my head?

Can I do this using drawings or jottings?

Do I need to use a pencil and paper procedure?

What resources could I use to help me?

A Malin

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## Year One

Children in Year One will start to read and write numbers up to 100 in words and numerals and will continue to practice counting on and backwards from any number up to 100. By putting the largest number in their head and counting on the smallest number, for example 5+4= "I put five in my head and count on four". This is supported by using a number line and practical resources such as counters, Numicon, beadstring and everyday objects, paying particular attention to encourage children to explain their methods using a concrete manipulative.

**Key Vocabulary:** more than, most, less than (least), least, add, plus, altogether, subtract, minus, equal to, lots of, multiply, groups of, divide, share, number bond, fact family, array, whole, part,

## Key Instant Recall Facts

Autumn 2: I know number bonds to 6.

Spring 1: I know doubles and halves to 10.

Spring 2: I known number bonds to 10.

Summer 1: I can tell an O'clock and half past time.

Summer 2: I know number bonds for each number to 10.















