



Teaching for Mastery

At Star we have adopted the Teaching for Mastery approach. This approach describes ideal classroom practice - supported by years of research - which allows pupils to acquire a deep, long-term, secure and adaptable understanding of the subject. Some of the approaches include:

- Whole class teaching
- Small, logical learning steps
- CPA approach
- Depth and breadth over acceleration

Whole class teaching:

At Star Primary, we strive for every learner to have high aspirations for themselves and to approach maths lessons with confidence. Teachers carefully sequence learning so that content is taught in small, manageable steps throughout the lesson. Therefore, the vast majority of learners can access the same lesson at the same time.

CPA approach (Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract):

Maths can be very abstract in nature. In order to support the children construct meaning to abstract learning, mathematical concepts are first taught by using physical resources (manipulatives). This is the Concrete stage. These might include but are not limited to counters, dienes or cubes.

Once a strong understanding of the mathematical concept is formed at the concrete stage, pictorial representations are introduced to develop their depth of understanding further. Pictorial representations can include bar models and part-part-whole models for example.

Finally, once the children have secure knowledge at a concrete and pictorial level - they are then equipped to tackle the abstract stage. This is where a concept might be introduced using numbers and mathematical symbols (+, -, x or) for example.

Depth and breadth over acceleration

At the heart of the Teaching for Mastery approach is a commitment to ensuring all content taught is deep and secure rather than superficial. Superficial learning is often the result of rapidly moving the children on to the next concept without having provided the time and opportunity to explore new learning in a deep and meaningful way.

One of the ways in which we allow pupils to secure a mastery level of understanding of each concept is through carefully planned journaling opportunities. When journaling, the children are required to express their mathematical thinking in context as well as allowing them to demonstrate their reasoning skills.