

KEY STAGE 1

Children develop the core ideas that underpin all calculation. They begin by connecting calculation with counting on and counting back, but they should learn that understanding wholes and parts will enable them to calculate efficiently and accurately, and with greater flexibility. They learn how to use an understanding of 10s and 1s to develop their calculation strategies, especially in addition and subtraction.

Key language: whole, part, ones, ten, tens, number bond, add, addition, plus, total, altogether, subtract, subtraction, find the difference, take away, minus, less, more, group, share, equal, equals, is equal to, groups, equal groups, times, multiply, multiplied by, divide, share, shared equally, times-table

Addition and subtraction: Children first learn to connect addition and subtraction with counting, but they soon develop two very important skills: an understanding of parts and wholes, and an understanding of unitising 10s, to develop efficient and effective calculation strategies based on known number bonds and an increasing awareness of place value. Addition and subtraction are taught in a way that is interlinked to highlight the link between the two operations. A key idea is that children will select methods and approaches based on their number sense. For example, in Year 1, when faced with $15 - 3$ and $15 - 13$, they will adapt their ways of approaching the calculation appropriately. The teaching should always emphasise the importance of mathematical thinking to ensure accuracy and flexibility of approach, and the importance of using known number facts to harness their recall of bonds within 20 to support both addition and subtraction methods.

In Year 2, they will start to see calculations presented in a column format, although this is not expected to be formalised until KS2. We show the column method in Year 2 as an option; teachers may not wish to include it until Year 3.

Multiplication and division: Children develop an awareness of equal groups and link this with counting in equal steps, starting with 2s, 5s and 10s. In Year 2, they learn to connect the language of equal groups with the mathematical symbols for multiplication and division.

They learn how multiplication and division can be related to repeated addition and repeated subtraction to find the answer to the calculation. In this key stage, it is vital that children explore and experience a variety of strong images and manipulative representations of equal groups, including concrete experiences as well as abstract calculations.

Children begin to recall some key multiplication facts, including doubles, and an understanding of the 2, 5 and 10 times-tables and how they are related to counting.

Fractions: In Year 1, children encounter halves and quarters, and link this with their understanding of sharing. They experience key spatial representations of these fractions, and learn to recognise examples and non-examples, based on their awareness of equal parts of a whole.

In Year 2, they develop an awareness of unit fractions and experience non-unit fractions, and they learn to write them and read them in the common format of numerator and denominator.

LOWER KEY STAGE 2

In Years 3 and 4, children develop the basis of written methods by building their skills alongside a deep understanding of place value. They should use known addition/subtraction and multiplication/division facts to calculate efficiently and accurately, rather than relying on counting. Children use place value equipment to support their understanding, but not as a substitute for thinking.

Key language: partition, place value, tens, hundreds, thousands, column method, whole, part, equal groups, sharing, grouping.

Addition and subtraction: In Year 3 especially, the column methods are built up gradually. Children will develop their understanding of how each stage of the calculation, including any exchanges, relates to place value. The example calculations chosen to introduce the stages of each method may often be more suited to a mental method. However, the examples and the progression of the steps have been chosen to help children develop their fluency in the process, alongside a deep understanding of the concepts and the numbers involved, so that they can apply these skills accurately and efficiently to later calculations. The class should be encouraged to compare mental and written methods for specific calculations, and children should be encouraged at every stage to make choices about which methods to apply.

In Year 4, the steps are shown without such fine detail, although children should continue to build their understanding with a secure basis in place value. In subtraction, children will need to develop their understanding of exchange as they may need to exchange across one or two columns. By the end of Year 4, children should have developed fluency in column methods alongside a deep understanding, which will allow them to progress confidently in upper Key Stage 2.

Multiplication and division: Children build a solid grounding in times-tables, understanding the multiplication and division facts in tandem. As such, they should be as confident knowing that 35 divided by 7 is 5 as knowing that 5 times 7 is 35. Children develop key skills to support multiplication methods: unitising, commutativity, and how to use partitioning effectively. Unitising allows children to use known facts to multiply and divide multiples of 10 and 100 efficiently. Commutativity gives children flexibility in applying known facts to calculations and problem solving. An understanding of partitioning allows children to extend their skills to multiplying and dividing 2- and 3-digit numbers by a single digit. Children develop column methods to support multiplications in these cases. For successful division, children will need to make choices about how to partition. For example, to divide 423 by 3, it is effective to partition 423 into 300, 120 and 3, as these can be divided by 3 using known facts. Children will also need to understand the concept of remainder, in terms of a given calculation and in terms of the context of the problem.

Fractions: Children develop the key concept of equivalent fractions, and link this with multiplying and dividing the numerators and denominators, as well as exploring the visual concept through fractions of shapes. Children learn how to find a fraction of an amount, and develop this with the aid of a bar model and other representations alongside.

In Year 3, children develop an understanding of how to add and subtract fractions with the same denominator and find complements to the whole. This is developed alongside an understanding of fractions as numbers, including fractions greater than 1. In Year 4, children begin to work with fractions greater than 1. Decimals are introduced, as tenths in Year 3 and then as hundredths in Year 4. Children develop an understanding of decimals in terms of the relationship with fractions, with dividing by 10 and 100, and also with place value.

UPPER KEY STAGE 2

In upper Key Stage 2, children build on secure foundations in calculation, and develop fluency, accuracy and flexibility in their approach to the four operations. They work with whole numbers and adapt their skills to work with decimals, and they continue to develop their ability to select appropriate, accurate and efficient operations.

Key language: decimal, column methods, exchange, partition, mental method, ten thousand, hundred thousand, million, factor, multiple, prime number, square number, cube number

Addition and subtraction: Children build on their column methods to add and subtract numbers with up to seven digits, and they adapt the methods to calculate efficiently and effectively with decimals, ensuring understanding of place value at every stage.
Children compare and contrast methods, and they select mental methods or jottings where appropriate and where these are more likely to be efficient or accurate when compared with formal column methods.
Bar models are used to represent the calculations required to solve problems and may indicate where efficient methods can be chosen.

Multiplication and division: Building on their understanding, children develop methods to multiply up to 4-digit numbers by single-digit and 2-digit numbers.
Children develop column methods with an understanding of place value, and they continue to use the key skill of unitising to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000.
Written division methods are introduced and adapted for division by single-digit and 2-digit numbers and are understood alongside the area model and place value. In Year 6, children develop a secure understanding of how division is related to fractions.
Multiplication and division of decimals are also introduced and refined in Year 6.

Fractions: Children find fractions of amounts, multiply a fraction by a whole number and by another fraction, divide a fraction by a whole number, and add and subtract fractions with different denominators. Children become more confident working with improper fractions and mixed numbers and can calculate with them. Understanding of decimals with up to 3 decimal places is built through place value and as fractions, and children calculate with decimals in the context of measure as well as in pure arithmetic.
Children develop an understanding of percentages in relation to hundredths, and they understand how to work with common percentages: 50%, 25%, 10% and 1%.