



Maths at Unity Academy



Intent

At Unity, our aim is to inspire a genuine enjoyment of mathematics among our pupils, fostering engagement and building confidence so that every learner feels capable of success.

We believe that developing a deep, conceptual understanding of mathematics is key to helping learning 'stick'. To achieve this, we follow a Mastery approach, where lessons are designed to encourage exploration, discussion and practical learning. This hands-on, collaborative style not only makes maths more accessible but also helps pupils connect ideas and see the relevance of what they are learning.

Recognising that our pupils come with a wide range of experiences and levels of attainment, we teach mathematics through progressive 'maths steps' rather than by year group. This ensures that learning is tailored to individual needs, allowing every child to progress at a pace that suits them.

Our curriculum is built to spark curiosity and reignite a love for maths, especially for those who may have become disengaged. By making learning meaningful, inclusive, and enjoyable, we aim to equip our pupils with the confidence and enthusiasm to take positive steps in their mathematical journey and beyond.

Implementation

A Practical, Inclusive and Mastery-Based Approach

We deliver a mathematics curriculum that is broad, balanced and engaging, designed to meet the diverse needs of our pupils. With mixed-age classes and a wide range of attainment, our curriculum is carefully aligned to the Ready to Progress criteria, supported by the White Rose Maths small steps. This ensures that learning is focused on key mathematical concepts and tailored to individual starting points, rather than fixed year group expectations.

Children work towards specific areas of the Ready to Progress framework based on class needs, and our teachers are highly skilled in adapting learning to suit a broad range of attainment and age. This flexible approach allows all pupils to access meaningful learning and make progress at their own pace.

We place a strong emphasis on practical, hands-on learning, using the Concrete–Pictorial–Abstract (CPA) approach to build deep conceptual understanding. Concrete resources and pictorial representations are used consistently to support children as they work through each small step. As confidence grows, pupils are challenged through reasoning and problem-solving activities that deepen their understanding and stretch their thinking.

Our curriculum is supported by high-quality resources from White Rose Maths which break down learning into manageable, achievable steps. This structure helps pupils experience success and develop confidence in their mathematical abilities.

Assessment is embedded throughout our teaching.

- Pupils on short-term placements are assessed on entry and again on exit or at the end of the unit - whichever comes first -to ensure learning is appropriately pitched and progress is monitored.
- Pupils who are permanently placed at Unity are assessed half-termly, with data recorded and analysed to inform planning and ensure progress.

In Key Stage 2, children take part in a daily Times Table Challenge, helping to build fluency and recall of multiplication facts. Across all classes, we place great importance on number skills, and each class participates in 'Mastery in Number' sessions four times a week, providing additional opportunities to strengthen core understanding.

At Unity, our goal is to reignite a love for mathematics through a curriculum that is inclusive, practical and designed to meet the needs of every learner. By making maths meaningful, hands-on and enjoyable, we empower our pupils to take confident steps forward in their mathematical journey.

Impact

At Unity, we aspire for every pupil to leave with a positive attitude towards mathematics, having developed a secure understanding of the concepts they have explored. By the end of each topic, pupils should demonstrate increased security in their learning and show readiness to continue their mathematical journey- whether within Unity or beyond.

As a result of our curriculum and teaching approach, pupils at Unity develop:

- Quick recall of facts and procedures
- Flexibility and fluidity in moving between representations and contexts
- The ability to recognise relationships and make connections
- Confidence and resilience in tackling mathematical challenges
- A genuine enjoyment of mathematics and a belief in their ability to succeed

Ultimately, we aim for every child to leave Unity as a confident, capable and curious mathematician, equipped with the skills and mindset to thrive in the next stage of their education.