

Teaching Arithmetic

Arithmetic is the use of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Our arithmetic policy sets out how the children learn arithmetic at Pudsey Bolton Royd. The arithmetic policy is divided into 3 phases:

KS1 - children in Years 1 and 2

Lower KS2 - children in Years 3 and 4

Upper KS2 - children in Years 5 and 6

Each area of arithmetic has a 3 stage approach to learning new calculation skills:

Stage 1: Developing understanding of the concepts and language behind each operation

Stage 2: Informal jottings

Stage 3: Written methods

Stage 1: Developing conceptual understanding

This is the starting point of any new learning of arithmetic skills. Children are introduced to each type of calculation by using that skill in a real life context using familiar objects. Key vocabulary is introduced and explained and children begin to use this vocabulary in their own explanations when talking to their partners, to adults, to small groups or to the whole class. A range of maths equipment is used to develop children's understanding of the arithmetical skill. Children are then taught how to draw their own models and images to show the calculation and deepen their understanding.

Stage 2: Informal jottings

Once children are secure with using equipment and drawing models and images, they will be ready to move onto the next stage. Informal jottings are used to support children's thinking. These include: part/whole models, number lines and bar models.

Stage 3: Written methods

Once children can confidently use informal jottings to calculate, they will progress to using written methods. These written methods are introduced alongside informal jottings so children can see the links between each stage of arithmetic.

These stages are fluid and depend on the understanding of each individual child.

Children can choose to use practical equipment, models / images and informal jottings at any time to support their understanding.