

Vandyke Upper School Numeracy Policy

We are all teachers of numeracy. All staff have a responsibility to promote the development of effective numeracy skills and an understanding and appreciation of the importance of numeracy.

Students require good numeracy skills to access parts of the curriculum, and later to gain employment and access further and higher education opportunities. Numeracy forms a vital part of everyday life, and as such students need to be able to perform the basic arithmetic operations with confidence. These are especially useful when it comes to handling finances, in areas such as calculating bills and budgets

Across the whole school curriculum, there is a need for consistency in the way numeracy is taught and used. Topics such as mental arithmetic, graphs and conversions are covered in a number of subjects and we need to ensure that the way students are taught is consistent.

Our Aim

The aim of this policy is to improve the teaching of numeracy skills across the curriculum, and hence to raise achievement for all students.

Strategies (Teachers of Mathematics)

- Continued whole staff training - a numeracy booklet will be available to support staff
- Drop- in sessions for students in the Library after school.
- Specific interventions with targeted students - one to one and small group work outside of class time.
- A numeracy booklet for parents is available through the school website.
- The maths department will use Vandyke Voice and the staff bulletin to provide tips about basic numeracy skills for students, parents and staff.
- To be aware of the mathematical techniques used in other subjects and provide assistance and advice to other departments, so that a correct and consistent approach is used in all subjects.

Strategies (Teachers of subjects other than Mathematics)

- Ensure teachers are familiar with mathematical language, notation, conventions and techniques relating to their own subject, and encourage students to use these correctly.
- Run tutor time activities for students within the school's tutor-time programme - numerical puzzles, budget setting tasks etc
- Provide information for mathematics teachers relating to when particular numeracy skills will be required in a particular subject.
- Provide resources for mathematics teachers to enable them to use examples of applications of numeracy relating to other subject in mathematics lessons.

Strategies for the School

- A numeracy co-ordinator will be appointed to co-ordinate the school's work in promoting numeracy.
- The co-ordinator will convene a Numeracy Working Group whose remit will be to monitor the implementation of this policy, evaluate its effectiveness and to develop policy and practice.