

Baltasound Junior High School Numeracy Policy



Introduction

At Baltasound Junior High School we encourage our students to become lifelong learners. We want to give children an education of the highest standard, we aim for excellence in all our school activities and encourage all students, whatever their ability to achieve the best they possibly can. We have developed a school wide numeracy policy to ensure all students work on their numeracy skills which helps develop their ability to solve problems, make decisions and take responsibility in their everyday life.

Being numerate definition - "the confidence and competence in using number which will allow individuals to solve problems, analyse information and make informed decisions based on calculations."

Curriculum for Excellence: Numeracy Across Learning: principals and practice

Aims

Baltasound Junior High School aims to ensure that:

- All students receive a well-balanced curriculum with opportunities to develop their numeracy skills
- Every teacher provides students with a consistent approach to teaching numeracy, with high standards expected throughout the school
- All students are given the opportunity to extend their knowledge and skills
- Parents are kept well informed on student progress and how they can support the development of their child's numeracy skills

Our Vision

In our school community we will work together as a team to develop our children as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens by providing a safe, friendly and inclusive environment for motivating and challenging learning experiences.

In order to achieve this vision we aim to provide high quality learning and teaching in Numeracy to develop our children as competent and confident life-long learners.

Numeracy is a skill for life, learning and work. Having well-developed numeracy skills allows young people to be more confident in social settings and enhances enjoyment in a large number of leisure activities. For these and many other reasons, all teachers have important parts to play in enhancing the numeracy skills of all children and young people."

Curriculum for Excellence: Numeracy Across Learning: principals and practice

At BJHS we believe that numeracy is of paramount importance for all students. Numeracy skills enable students to develop into confident individuals who are able to work and function independently, so ensuring the foundations for these have are secure, we help them develop these skills in preparation for life and work.

What is Numeracy?

The numeracy experiences and outcomes (E&Os) are structured into 8 organisers. These are:

- Estimation and rounding
- Number and number processes
- Fractions, decimal fractions and percentages
- Money
- Time
- Measurement
- Data and analysis
- Ideas of chance and uncertainty

Teaching & Learning

It is important to use the numeracy experiences and outcomes alongside those of the other curriculum areas when planning for learning. All staff should be familiar with the appropriate documentation to inform the teaching and learning in their classroom. Discussions and decisions need to be made across subjects to ensure that expectations in numeracy are both constant and consistently high. Strategies for teachers to use include:

- Use consistent strategies and language across the curriculum and be aware how maths techniques are used in other subjects within school.
- Help parents understand mathematical techniques and methods.
- Develop use of mathematical language and vocabulary.
- Develop students' skills in estimation, accuracy and reasoning.
- Develop students' ability to perform mental calculations.
- Use everyday scenarios and real life mathematical problems/situations.
- Encourage students to explain and comment on their strategies/working out (and that of others).
- Identify students who require additional support with maths.
- Provide information to other subject teachers on appropriate expectations of learners and difficulties.

Planning & Programmes Of Work

In order to ensure continuity and coherence and to effectively manage learning across the ages and stages, well-planned programmes of study should be developed with the following in mind:

- Programmes and class planning are matched to the CfE Experiences and Outcomes (Es and Os).
- Teachers identify which Es and Os are taught as they develop courses. SMT will ensure there will be full coverage over time and will sample student work at regular intervals.
- As the students progress through the levels, teachers ensure that there is progression in skills and in knowledge and understanding.

Assessment & Recording

Assessment of numeracy needs to be **valid** (allowing staff to draw conclusions about what learners can do), **reliable** (provide the same result of the assessment is repeated) and **proportionate** (so as not to place excessive burdens on students or staff).

As numeracy is the responsibility of all staff, and because of the importance of numeracy across all aspects of a young person's learning, all staff should be clear about their responsibilities and their roles in the assessment of numeracy. The Benchmarks provided by Education Scotland will allow staff to track and evidence the numeracy progression of all students within Baltasound Junior High School.

The Scottish National Standardised Assessment will provide assessment at key points, namely during P1, P4, P7 and S3. This will provide the teacher and SMT with accurate, standardised information to assist the class teacher with their professional judgement with regard how well each student is progressing.

Student progress will be tracked over time with appropriate intervention, support or challenge based on the individual student need.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Teaching staff will use a variety of ways to ensure that standards and expectations are consistently high across the school. Staff will regularly meet to share examples of work and look at ways to improve numeracy in all subjects. This is crucial at times of transition, to ensure individual needs are taken into account during this stage; Nursery staff will work with Lower Primary staff and Secondary staff will work with Upper Primary during Term 4 to ensure a clear understanding of student progress, strategies to employ and next steps.

Resources

Resources and materials for teachers and parents to use will be organised and provided, and this will be shared on the school website. This will include strategies for parents to use at home as well as numeracy games and shared home learning activities. "How to Guides" will also be linked to from the school website and opportunities for parents to learn with their child will be incorporated into the school calendar.

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