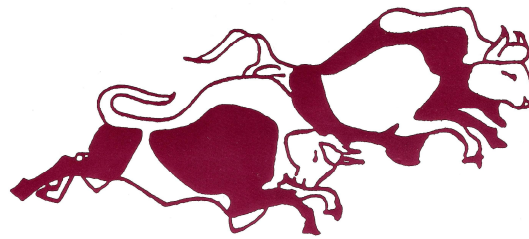


Mickleover Primary School



Written Calculation Policy

2015

At Mickleover Primary, we recognise the importance of a common and progressive approach to the introduction of standard written methods, to ensure that children have secure calculation skills that are appropriate to their understanding of number. This policy outlines how written calculations are taught throughout the school to ensure consistency and progression for all pupils.

As pupils progress in their maths, they become ready to handle more formal written methods that in many cases increase efficiency. However, pupils should not be moved onto these methods before their conceptual understanding of each operation is sound. Also, pupils should not be moved on automatically to the next calculation strategy - the policy should be used with professional judgement of what is appropriate for the pupils in each class. Although the focus of this policy is on pencil and paper procedures, it is important to recognise that the ability to calculate mentally lies at the heart of numeracy. Mental calculation should be seen as complementary to written recordings, as in every written method there is an element of mental processing. Supporting all calculation work should be a sound understanding of estimation and checking the reasonableness of an answer. Children should be taught to use rounding to support estimation and to check answers against the question to ensure it is reasonable and fits the real life situation (especially in the case of division and remainders). Concrete apparatus should be used throughout the school to scaffold and support the learning of written methods.