



Guidance on Moderating Mathematics

Produced by Curriculum Support for Assessment and Numeracy Strategy Team

We recommend that at least one, if possible, two staff meetings a year are held for the moderation of mathematics.

The purpose of these moderation meetings is to ensure that consistent judgements are made regarding standards of attainment throughout the school compared to the key objectives and national curriculum levels.

It will also enable staff to have a shared understanding of expectations throughout Key Stages 1 and 2.

Ideally, a moderation staff meeting should take place towards the end of the school year, to assist with teacher assessment of end of year and end of key stage attainment.

We would recommend that a moderation staff meeting is organised in two parts, as outlined here (initially schools may need two staff meetings - one for each part - until staff are familiar with the moderation process):

Part 1

1. Arrange for staff to bring to the meeting the maths books / folders of three children from each class or year group: a representative average, above average and below average achieving child.
2. Ask staff to work in small groups to look at the work of pupils in each year group. We recommend that you organise this so that teachers are looking at a year group other than the one they are currently teaching and with colleagues they do not usually plan with. For example, a Year 1, Year 2 and Year 5 teacher could work together to look at Year 3 pupils' work. This will give staff the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of expectations and enable colleagues to share expertise.
3. The group should look at the key objectives for the year group they are moderating, then identify within the pupils' books, samples of work which relate to a specific key objective. They should then compare the pupils' work with the *supplement of examples* in *The Framework for Teaching Mathematics*. At this point it would be useful to make a record of the judgement the group makes. A suggested proforma for this is attached. The group will probably only have time to review work samples related to two or, at most, three key objectives.

Part 2

1. Now ask staff to work in Key Stage groups (teachers should work with the Key Stage they are currently teaching in). Give teachers a few minutes to read the *National Curriculum level descriptions* for Attainment Target 1 and one other attainment target that relates to the samples of work for Year 2 or Year 6 that have been moderated in the first part of the meeting.
2. The group should then look at the Year 2 or Year 6 pupils' work samples and use the level descriptions to confirm judgements made and identify the level attained. For example, the level 3 description will probably be the 'best-fit' for an above average year 2 pupil whose work was judged to be matching the examples of 'end of year outcomes' for Year 3 in the Framework. The level 3 description may also be the 'best-fit' for a lower-achieving Year 6 child whose work was judged to be matching the examples of 'end of year outcomes' for Year 4 in the Framework. The agreed level should be recorded on the annotation proforma. This process will enable all staff to become increasingly familiar with the level descriptions and the end of Key Stage expectations.

Schools may wish to repeat this process with samples of work from Year 4 pupils (you may find this helpful to look at progression).

If maths co-ordinators collate notes made during these moderation meetings, this will provide evidence that moderation has taken place and support their monitoring role.

Schools may choose to keep centrally copies of samples of work discussed in moderation meetings as exemplification of standards attained within the school.

Mathematics Moderation Record

Today's date: _____

Year Group: _____

Pupil: _____

Representative of: below average / average / above average

attainment in this: class / year group.

Key objective: _____

The work sample discussed matched the examples for Year _____ in the
Framework for Teaching Mathematics.

Date of work sample: _____

National Curriculum Level: *

* To be agreed in the second part of the meeting, for Year 2 and Year 6