



Boclair Academy
Family Learning Event
Numeracy Information
23rd September 2026



What is numeracy?

Numeracy is the ability to understand and use maths in daily life; at home, work or school.

Numeracy does not involve complex mathematical skills, it means being confident at using basic mathematical skills in real life situations.

Why is numeracy important?

Improving key numeracy skills enables learners to:

- develop essential skills which will allow learners to fully participate in society
- understand that successful independent living requires financial awareness, effective money management, using schedules and other related skills
- interpret numerical information appropriately and use it to draw conclusions, assess risk, make reasoned evaluations and informed decisions
- apply skills and understanding creatively and logically to solve problems, within a variety of contexts
- appreciate how the imaginative and effective use of technologies can enhance the development of skills and concepts

What are key numeracy skills?

Key skills in numeracy include:

- essential arithmetic skills such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- working with fractions, decimals and percentages
- calculating and using measurements
- working with ratios and being able to convert between units
- interpreting data, charts and diagrams
- solving problems

How can you help improve numeracy skills at home?

To improve numeracy skills at home:

- encourage a positive mind-set when it comes to using numeracy skills
- encourage young people to take an active part in shopping and budgeting
- discuss measurements and proportions when cooking and using recipes
- encourage young people to take more control of their time management
- discuss distances and score keeping during sports and games
- allow young people to take measurements and calculate dimensions when carrying out DIY tasks
- play games and use interactive resources to improve numeracy skills
- make use of the Bocclair Academy Numeracy Booklet

Bocclair Academy Numeracy Booklet

The Bocclair Academy Numeracy Booklet can be accessed via the school website and offers information and examples of how to use different numeracy skills. Some examples from the resource are below:

Integers

The set of numbers known as integers comprises positive and negative whole numbers and the number zero. Integers can be represented on a number line.



Integers are used in a number of real life situations including temperature, scoring in sport, bank balances, profit and loss, elevators, etc.

Adding and Subtracting Integers

If you add a negative number, you get the same result as subtracting a positive number.

If you subtract a negative number, you get the same result as adding a positive number.

Examples:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Calculate $4 + (-3)$
$4 + (-3) = 4 - 3$
$= 1$ | 2. Calculate $3 + (-7)$
$3 + (-7) = 3 - 7$
$= -4$ |
| 3. Calculate $2 - (-3)$
$2 - (-3) = 2 + 3$
$= 5$ | 4. Calculate $(-9) - (-2)$
$(-9) - (-2) = (-9) + 2$
$= -7$ |

Dividing Fractions

When dividing by a fraction it is easier to obtain an answer by multiplying by the reciprocal of the dividing fraction. To do this we can remember *copy, change, flip*.

We *copy* the first fraction, *change* the divide sign to multiply, and *flip* the last fraction upside down (to obtain the reciprocal). We then multiply the fractions as demonstrated earlier.

Examples:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Calculate $\frac{1}{2} \div \frac{1}{4}$
$\frac{1}{2} \div \frac{1}{4}$
$= \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{4}{1}$
$= \frac{4}{2}$
$= 2$ | 2. Calculate $\frac{2}{5} \div \frac{3}{5}$
$\frac{2}{5} \div \frac{3}{5}$
$= \frac{2}{5} \times \frac{5}{3}$
$= \frac{10}{15}$
$= \frac{2}{3}$ |
| 3. Calculate $3\frac{3}{5} \div 2\frac{5}{8}$
$3\frac{3}{5} \div 2\frac{5}{8}$ | |

The booklet will be updated throughout this year to include more examples of how you can help improve numeracy skills at home and in a range of different subjects within the school.

Paper copies of the booklet can also be collected from the Mathematics department upon request.

Numeracy Activities at Home

The following activities are just some of the ways that you can help improve numeracy skills at home:

Ratios and Proportions – Re-write a recipe:

Challenge your child to use their knowledge of ratios and proportions to adapt a recipe. For example, ask them to change a recipe that feeds 6 people to one that feeds 4 people. To test their changes, help them to make a meal with the new recipe.

Time Management – Timetables:

Working out when to leave the house for an appointment can involve choosing which train (or bus, etc.) to take. Ask your child to use a train timetable to work out which train you would need to get to arrive at your destination on time.

For example, “we have to be at the orthodontist at 4pm. The train station at Partick is a 5 minute walk from the orthodontist’s office. What train will we have to get from Westerton to ensure we arrive at the orthodontist in time for the appointment?”

Money – Budgeting

Challenge your child to find which supermarket will be cheapest to purchase items from a shopping list using prices available online. Encourage your child to calculate the cost per individual item to see which products are the “best buy”. Give them the correct amount of money and ask them to go and collect the items from the list.

Percentages – Sales

Look at the sales rack in a clothes shop. Ask your child to calculate the discount and the new cost of items included in the sale. For example, a jumper costs £48 and is included in a 20% off sale. How much will the jumper be discounted by and what is the new cost of the jumper?

Online Resources

The following website are useful for improving numeracy skills:

- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/secondary
 - Choose Level 3 and 4 mathematics content
- www.mathsworkout.co.uk
 - Interactive resources
 - Username: Bocclair Password: graph26
- www.corbettmaths.com
 - Revision questions and videos for a range of topics
- www.nrich.maths.org
 - Range of resources for young people and adults to use at home
- www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk
 - Help and advice for adults to support young people with numeracy at home

Talking Positively about Maths

It's important to be positive about maths/numeracy around young people. The way we talk about maths and numeracy makes a big difference to how they see it. Saying things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school" might make your child start to think like that too.

Instead of saying the phrases above we could try "I found maths difficult too, but if we keep working at it, we can get it".

Whatever our own feelings about maths, being positive about the subject can make a real difference to the progress of young people.

Thank You

Thank you for attending this evening's family learning event and I hope that you find the information provided in this leaflet, and during the drop in sessions, useful in supporting young people at home to improve their numeracy skills.

If you have any further questions, or require any additional materials, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at the email address below:

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