

EYFS Frequently Asked Questions

When does this new EYFS guidance arrive on the website?

The first phase of the updated scheme along with the guidance for teachers will be uploaded very soon. We will continue to upload each phase as soon as it is ready to ensure teachers have enough time to plan.

Would you advise using current plans if we aren't an early adopter of the new EYFS? If we are not early adopters, can we still use the new schemes, or should we use the old ones?

The scheme aims to provide a bank of ideas to support a broad mathematical curriculum and does not solely focus on either set of ELG's. The original scheme was written during the consultation period with one eye on the proposed goals. The development of skills for each goal are included in the new phases with opportunities to revisit and build on key mathematical concepts. We encourage teachers to flexibly adapt the schemes to support the needs of their own school and children. The schemes allow time for plenty of opportunity for consolidation or taking more time or less time on a phase where needed.

Leaving numbers to 20 until Summer term seems like it might be a bit late?

The timings given are suggestions and these can be adapted to suit your school and your children so feel free to bring things forward if you feel your children are ready. Think of the reception scheme as a bank of ideas to use as a starting point or to supplement what you already do rather than a timetable to follow religiously. You can also build in opportunities to look at numbers to 20 through your class routines such as registration, question of the day and activities in provision before you move on to the direct teaching of them.

In the early terms although the focus is on exploring smaller numbers in depth, this does not mean the children will only count to five. Many children love to explore larger numbers during their play and this should be encouraged and celebrated. Many of the continuous provision activities in our schemes provide opportunities to explore, use and count beyond 10 and 20.

The new EYFS doesn't have SSM so will you be removing this from your materials next year?

It is true that there is now not an Early learning Goal for Shape Space and measure in the new Goals. However it is a vital part of the Statutory Educational Programmes.

"It is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures." DFE2020

The goals are an end of year assessment not the maths curriculum.

6,7, 8 In spring? Will this be too easy for more able children?

Provide opportunities for the children to apply their understanding to reason and problem solve. Can they work out how many items are hidden if they know there are 5 altogether?

Encourage them to invent their own games and use mathematical jottings to record and compare their scores.

Although your inputs are focused on exploring smaller numbers in depth, this doesn't mean that the children will only count to 5. Many children love to explore larger numbers during their play and this should be encouraged and celebrated.

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Could we have a list of the story books that you recommend?

The books will be part of the schemes linking to where they represent the maths in each area. They will be in the other resources section. We can compile a list once the schemes are fully complete and updated of books and other resources.

Will home learning be added weekly like it is currently or in advance?

Home learning will be added at least the week before it is needed and we will try to get more ahead of this as the year progresses.

Will you have assessments linked to this guidance? If not, do you have any assessment guidance?

Development matters is yet to be released. The DFE will publish exemplification for assessing the EY Goals. Assessment for Early years is still observational assessment in independent play.

Will there be notes for supporting progression from reception to year 1?

Not at this time however please look at our adapted Year 1 schemes.

Obviously, maths will be taught and imbedded throughout the provision through play and interests but how many discreet maths focus sessions should be in a reception class through the week?

We would recommend short adult led maths inputs every day. This can be whole class, small group, or in provision.

What if we don't use the EYFS curriculum for England?

Our schemes are used in many countries. They are designed to cover the English EYFS curriculum so if you follow a different curriculum, you will need to adapt and change these to meet the requirements of your curriculum. However our schemes are a bank of ideas for early maths so you can use elements that are most relevant to you and your children.

Any advice for mixed age Reception and Year 1 classes?

This will depend on your children and what has been missed due to covid . A play based curriculum offering provision would be advised. Our year 1 scheme has been adapted to provide more focus on numbers 0-10.

Does this new guidance work alongside Power Maths for Reception?

Will Power Maths be staying the same or changing?

There will be no changes to power maths. If you use Power maths then continue to follow the progression and use the updated scheme to supplement your ideas for activities and provision.

Will there be a lesson by lesson structure like the primary year groups?

There will be no lesson by lesson structure provided. Different schools have different approaches. Each class of children particularly in early years is unique and it would be impossible to produce 1 lesson pan for every school and class. The 3 weekly phases give teachers the flexibility to adapt to the needs of their children and link learning to their interests – still a statutory requirement.