How do we make mathematics teaching equitable for all pupils?

- Explore the proactive curricular, pedagogical and environmental approaches that enable all pupils, in particular pupil premium and SEND, to keep up and reach equal outcomes with their peers
- Discuss how traditional intervention approaches can result in wide attainment gaps and a tail of under-achievement for some pupils





FIGURE 1: EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICE



Best available evidence from research

Evidenceinformed practice Context – system, setting, group, individual

Teacher experience, expertise and professional judgement



High expectations for all

Belief all can achieve

Great teaching





All disadvantaged pupils



'Closing the Gap? Trends in educational attainment and disadvantage', Education Policy Institute (July 2017)



Attainment gap, age 11, by different pupil characteristics:

Percentage reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics for different groups England, 2016 (state-funded schools)



Attainment gap, age 16, by different pupil characteristics."

England, 2016 (state-funded schools)



GCSE and equivalent results: 2015 to 2016 (provisional)', Department for Education (October 2016)
 "Special educational needs in England", Department for Education (January 2017)



"Teachers and kids should understand that there is nothing that can diagnose a student's potential.

There is nothing that can tell us what they're capable of learning and doing in the future under the right conditions"

Carol Dweck

Areas of SEND can be considered as falling under four broad areas

Cognition and learning

Communication and interaction

Sensory and/or physical needs

Social, emotional and mental health

Recap



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS

Summary of recommendations



I wonder ...

I notice ...



Equality means each individual or group of people is given the same resources or opportunities.

Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome.

https://www.marinhhs.org

"The route to achieving equity will not be accomplished through treating everyone equally. It will be achieved by treating everyone justly according to their circumstances."

-Paula Dressel, Race Matters Institute



Research and analysis **Research review series: mathematics** Published 25 May 2021

Equity

Teachers and leaders should try to strike a balance between curricular approaches that enable pupils to keep up with their peers and reactive approaches that identify, help and support pupils after they have fallen behind. These reactive approaches are more likely to rely on assessment, diagnoses, personalisation and interventions.

In the English mathematics education system, emphases on reactive approaches are associated with a wide attainment spread and a long tail of under-achievement. Almost 180,000 students had to re-sit GCSE mathematics in 2019. Of these, only 22.3% achieved a standard pass (grade 4) or above. [footnote 109]

In East Asian classrooms, there appears to be little differentiation.^[footnote 110] It might be assumed that this is the result of a pedagogical decision to keep pupils learning and doing the same thing. Teachers may worry that high attainers are being held back or that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are not being given enough support. However, in countries like Singapore, all groups of pupils do well. Fifty-one per cent of Singaporean pupils met the advanced international benchmark versus just 11% of English pupils. For the intermediate benchmark, described as the ability to 'apply basic mathematical knowledge in a variety of situations', only 8% of Singaporean children did not meet this standard, compared with 31% of English children.^[footnote 111] The reason for this success is because a powerful curriculum and plenty of opportunities to engage in purposeful, intelligent practice lead to better outcomes for pupils.^[footnote 112]

Leaders could consider this strategy as a way to promote proficiency in the subject, where pupils stay together not because higher attainers are being held back, but because lower attainers can 'keep up'.

EEF Blog: Assess, adjust, adapt – what does adaptive teaching mean to you?

We know that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in mainstream schools have the greatest need for high-quality teaching and this requires daily decisions regarding the school learning environment and classroom management. Such high-quality teaching – <u>adjusting, adapting and assessing in the classroom</u> – is of course crucial for the progress of all pupils.

Differentiation is an important factor to consider when adapting teaching, but in practice, <u>its definition is unclear.</u> It is helpful to draw a distinction between differentiating by outcomes and differentiated support. Whilst providing focused support to children who are not making progress is recommended, creating a multitude of differentiated resources is not.

A rising tide lifts all the boats. (John F. Kennedy)

2014 National Curriculum

'The expectation is that the majority of pupils will move through the programmes of study at broadly the same pace. However, decisions about when to progress should always be based on the security of pupils' understanding and their readiness to progress to the next stage. Pupils who grasp concepts rapidly should be *challenged* through being offered rich and sophisticated problems before any acceleration through new content. Those who are not sufficiently fluent with earlier material should consolidate their understanding, including through additional practice, before moving on.'

(National curriculum in England: mathematics programmes of study)

Find the word 'differentiation'

Teachers present subject matter clearly, promoting appropriate discussion about the subject matter being taught. They check pupils' understanding systematically, identify misconceptions accurately and provide clear, direct feedback. In so doing, they respond and adapt their teaching as necessary without unnecessarily elaborate or individualised approaches

(EiF 231 Good Implementation)

A	daptive Teaching (Standard 5 –	Adapt teaching)		
Learn that		Learn how to		
1.	Pupils are likely to learn at different rates and to require different levels and types of support from teachers to succeed.	Develop an understanding of d Identifying pupils who need Making use of formative as 	ifferent pupil needs, by: d new content further broken down. ssessment	
2.	Seeking to understand pupils' differences, including their different levels of prior knowledge and potential barriers to learning, is an essential part of teaching.	 Working closely with the S (SENCO) and special edu Safeguarding Lead. Using the SEND Code of I 	pecial Educational Needs Co-ordinator cation professionals and the Designated	
3.	Adapting teaching in a responsive way, including by providing targeted support to pupils who are struggling, is likely to increase pupil success.	Provide opportunity for all pup • Adapting lessons, whilst m	ils to experience success, by: naintaining high expectations for all, so that	
4.	Adaptive teaching is less likely to be valuable if it causes the teacher to artificially create distinct tasks for different groups of pupils or to set lower expectations for particular pupils.	 all pupils have the opportul Balancing input of new cor concepts. Making effective use of teat 	nity to meet expectations. Itent so that pupils master important aching assistants.	
5.	Flexibly grouping pupils within a class to provide more tailored support can be effective, but care should be taken to monitor its impact on engagement and motivation, particularly for low attaining pupils.	Meet individual needs without Making use of well-designed Planning to connect new c	creating unnecessary workload, by: ed resources (e.g. textbooks). content with pupils' existing knowledge or	
6.	There is a common misconception that pupils have distinct and identifiable learning styles. This is not supported by evidence and	 providing additional pre-tea Building in additional pract Reframing questions to pro- 	aching if pupils lack critical knowledge. ice or removing unnecessary expositions. ovide greater scaffolding or greater stretch.	
	 attempting to tailor les unlikely to be benefici 7. Pupils with special ed disabilities are likely to adapted support; worl colleagues, families a barriers and identify e essential. 	sons to learning styles is al. ucational needs or o require additional or ing closely with nd pupils to understand fective strategies is	Considering carefully whether intervening within lessons with individuals and small groups would be more efficient and effect than planning different lessons for different groups of pupils. Jp pupils effectively, by: Applying high expectations to all groups, and ensuring all pupil access to a rich curriculum. Changing groups regularly, avoiding the perception that groups fixed	t <mark>ive</mark> s hav s are

• Ensuring that any groups based on attainment are subject specific.

High Expectations (Standard 1 – Set high expectations)

Le	earn that	Learn how to					
1. 2. 3. 4.	Teachers have the ability to affect and improve the wellbeing, motivation and behaviour of their pupils. Teachers are key role models, who can influence the attitudes, values and behaviours of their pupils. Teacher expectations can affect pupil outcomes; settin goals that challenge and stretch pupils is essential. Setting clear expectations can help communicate shared values that improve classroom and school culture.	 Communicate a belief in the academic potential of all pupils, by: Using intentional and consistent language that promotes challenge and aspiration. Setting tasks that stretch pupils, but which are achievable, within a challenging curriculum. Creating a positive environment where making mistakes and learning from them and the need for effort and perseverance are part of the daily routine. Seeking opportunities to engage parents and carers in the advantage of their shillenge (a new part of the daily routine). 					
5.	A cu relation of their children (e.g. proactively highlighting						
6.	High Learn that	Learn how to					
	^{pupi} disa Including a range of types of questions in class discussions to extend and <mark>challenge</mark> pupils (e.g. by modelling new vocabulary or asking pupils to justify answers).						



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Inclusivity

Category	Type 1	Type 2
Declarative 'I know that'	Facts and formulae	Relationship between facts (conceptual understanding)
Procedural 'I know how'	Methods	Relationship between facts, procedures and missing facts (principles/mechanisms)
Conditional 'I know when'	Strategies	Relationship between information, strategies and missing information (reasoning)

Pupils with SEND benefit hugely from explicit, systematic instruction and systematic rehearsal of declarative and procedural knowledge. [footnote 113] The benefits of these approaches extend beyond enhanced academic attainment and proficiency. The relationship between cognitive ability and academic attainment, including in numeracy, is in fact bidirectional. [footnote 114] Therefore, educational outcomes for pupils with SEND are likely to improve if teachers use systematic instruction and rehearsal to help pupils learn planned content. [footnote 115]

This approach is particularly useful for pupils with moderate learning difficulties who have slower cognitive processing speed. ^[footnote 116] Systematic approaches increase the amount of content considered per unit of time. These approaches are also highly beneficial in enhancing the progress, attainment and self-esteem of disadvantaged pupils. ^[footnote 117] Systematic curricular approaches give pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils a better chance of success, of keeping up and therefore of feeling included.

High quality teaching benefits pupils with SEND The 'Five-a-day' principle





•High demands of pupil involvement and engagement with their learning

- •High levels of interaction for all pupils
- •Appropriate use of teacher questioning, modelling and explaining
- •An emphasis on learning through dialogue, with regular opportunities for pupils to talk both individually and in groups
- •An expectation that pupils will accept responsibility for their own learning and work independently
- •Regular use of encouragement and authentic praise to engage and motivate pupils







Improving Mathematics in Key Stages Two and Three – Recommendations Summary

Use assessment to build on pupils' existing knowledge and understanding	2 Use manipulatives and representations	3 Teach pupils strategies for solving problems	4 Enable pupils to develop a rich network of mathematical knowledge	5 Develop pupils' independence and motivation	6 Use tasks and resources to challenge and support pupils' mathematics	7 Use structured interventions to provide additional support	8 Support pupils to make a successful transition between primary and secondary school
 Assessment should be used not only to track pupils' learning but also to provide teachers with information about what pupils do and do not know This should inform the planning of future lessons and the focus of targeted support Effective feedback will be an important element of teachers' response to assessment Feedback should be specific and clear, encourage and support further effort, and be given sparingly. Teachers not only have to address misconceptions but also understand why pupils may persist with errors Knowledge of common misconceptions can be invaluable in planning lessons to address errors before they arise 	 Manipulatives (physical objects used to teach maths) and representations (such as number lines and graphs) can help pupils engage with mathematical ideas However, manipulatives and representations are just tools: how they are used is essential They need to be used purposefully and appropriately to have an impact There must be a clear rationale for using a particular manipulative or representation to teach a specific mathematical concept Manipulatives should be temporary; they should act as a 'scaffold' that can be removed once independence is achieved 	 If pupils lack a well-rehearsed and readily available method to solve a problem they need to draw on problem solving strategies to make sense of the unfamiliar situation Select problem-solving tasks for which pupils do not have ready-made solutions Teach them to use and compare different approaches Show them how to interrogate and use their existing knowledge to solve problems Use worked examples to enable them to analyse the use of different strategies Require pupils to monitor, reflect on, and communicate their problem solving 	 Emphasise the many connections between mathematical facts, procedures, and concepts Ensure that pupils develop fluent recall of facts Teach pupils to understand procedures Teach pupils to consciously choose between mathematical strategies Build on pupils' informal understanding of sharing and proportionality to introduce procedures Teach pupils that fractions and decimals extend the number system beyond whole numbers Teach pupils to recognise and use mathematical structure 	 Encourage pupils to take responsibility for, and play an active role in, their own learning This requires pupils to develop metacognition – the ability to independently plan, monitor and evaluate their thinking and learning Initially, teachers may have to model metacognition by describing their own thinking Provide regular opportunities for pupils to develop metacognition by encouraging them to explain their thinking to themselves and others Avoid doing too much too early Positive attitudes are important, but there is scant evidence on the most effective ways to foster them School leaders should ensure that all staff, including non-teaching staff, encourage enjoyment in maths for all children 	 Tasks and resources are just tools - they will not be effective if they are used inappropriately by the teacher Use assessment of pupils' strengths and weaknesses to inform your choice of task Use tasks to address pupil misconceptions Provide examples and non-examples of concepts Use stories and problems to help pupils understand mathematics Use tasks to build conceptual knowledge in tandem with procedural knowledge Technology is not a silver bullet – it has to be used judiciously and less costly resources may be just as effective 	 Selection should be guided by pupil assessment Interventions should start early, be evidence-based and be carefully planned Interventions should include explicit and systematic instruction Even the best- designed intervention will not work if implementation is poor Support pupils to understand how interventions are connected to whole- class instruction Interventions should motivate pupils – not bore them or cause them to be anxious If interventions cause pupils to miss activities they enjoy, or content they need to learn, teachers should ask if the interventions are really necessary Avoid 'intervention fatigue'. Interventions do not always need to be time- consuming or intensive to be effective 	 There is a large dip in mathematical attainment and attitudes towards maths as children move from primary to secondary school Primary and secondary schools should develop shared understandings of curriculum, teaching and learning When pupils arive in Year 7, quickly attain a good understanding of their strengths and weaknesses Structured intervention support make progress Carefully consider how pupils are allocated to maths classes Setting is likely to lead to a widening of the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers, because the former are more likely to be assigned to lower groups



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math

- Making use of formative assessment
- Re-explain the concept using representation and language
- Give an additional (or revisit) examples and non-examples
- Flexibly grouping pupils within a class to provide more tailored support
- Intervening within lessons with individuals and small groups
- Effective use of Teaching Assistants



MAKING BEST USE OF TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Summary of recommendations



How do we make mathematics teaching equitable for all pupils?

- Explore the proactive curricular, pedagogical and environmental approaches that enable all pupils, in particular pupil premium and SEND, to keep up and reach equal outcomes with their peers
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Model

- Scaffold

Do

Can

Is there a shared understanding of the label 'SEND' and/or the need of the individual pupil?

Yes

Are expectations high? e.g. Curriculum not being 'dumbed down' & Inclusive learning environment?



Do all (SEND) pupils have access to high quality teaching?

Yes

Are we adapting teaching? Do we use all '5 a day EEF strategies' effectively?

Νο

No

No

No



Transform ed to support schools interested in improving ools can identify current areas of strength and

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This self-evaluation school improvement tool is designed to support schools interested in improving the achievement and enjoyment of mathematics. Schools can identify current areas of strength and next steps to transform mathematics in their school.

The features included in the self evaluation sections build on resources produced by the GLOWMaths Hub and feedback from other schools in the UK already transforming mathematics based on the four key strands: Systems and Beliefs, Teaching for Mastery, Arithmetic and Reasoning.

Note: The resource has not been designed to be used in isolation, e.g. it is a useful school improvement tool to summarise and follow up INSET sessions and/or staff discussions based on articles, guidance and action research

	0: Currently not a feature of our practice 1: Sometimes happens 2: Happens fairly often but not embedded 3: Is a central feature of our practice	0	1	2	
	TeachUp,KeepUp: The 'Mathematics Timetable' prioritises additional curriculum time beyond the mathematics lesson to support practice, consolidation and/or immediate same day/week intervention.				
	The vision for mathematics in the school embraces the aims of the National Curriculum and promotes a 'can do' attitude				Ī
liefs	The Mathematics Calendar/Long Term Plan is at least 35 weeks with a detailed curriculum mapped out across all stages to ensure pupils acquire and demonstrate a sufficient grasp of the mathematics relevant to their year group				
Be	LingerLonger: A Medium Term Plan for Mathematics is mapped out across each term, ensuring longer time is prioritised for key topics				Ī
and	AbilityNotFixed: Staff understand classes may contain previously high/mid/low attainers but they do not label pupils such as 'most able/less able', 'good/no good at maths' and can/can't do maths'				
tems	YesUCan: Staff proactively promote a 'can do' attitude to mathematics for all pupils through a set of 'positive norms' for the mathematics classroom including the use of 'yet', depth of understanding before speed and learning by mistakes are valued.				
Syst	BelieveToAchieve: Staff believe that the vast majority of Y6 pupils can achieve at least KS2 expected standards and there is a clear focused revision plan for Terms (3)/4/5				
•,	HelicopterNotVelcro: TAs are clear about their responsibilities and impact during different phases of				
	comments/Actions.				
	SecureAndDeep: Staff understand that the essential idea behind 'teaching for mastery in				Γ
	pupils to develop the depth and rigour they need to make secure and sustained progress over time				
ery	VariationNotVariety: Tasks and questions are designed using Variation Theory (what it is, what it isn't, apply understanding to solve new and unfamiliar problems)				I
lasti	Intelligent Practice: Examples and tasks focus on developing conceptual understanding, practise the thinking process with increasing creativity and avoid mechanical repetition				
Σ	InchWideMileDeep: Medium term plans identifying small key learning points				
ē	CPA: Concrete and pictorial representations are chosen carefully to help build procedural and conceptual knowledge together				
Вu	TeachLessLearnMore: All pupils are expected to develop at least a secure understanding of each small key learning point				I
eachi	PreventTheGap: Pupils' difficulties and misconceptions are identified through immediate formative assessment and addressed with rapid intervention within the lesson and/or same day/week intervention				Ī
Ĕ	DifferentiationByDepth: Challenge is provided by going deeper rather than accelerating too early into new mathematical content.				Ī
	Maths Manual: Teachers have access to high quality resources to support lesson planning, including text books				
	Comments/Actions:				

	0: Currently not a feature of our practice 1: Sometimes happens 2: Happens fairly often but not embedded 3: Is a central feature of our practice	0	1	2	3	
	InYourHead, WithJottings, WrittenMethod: Pupils are encouraged to calculate accurately, efficiently and flexibly					
tic	ArithmeticToolkit: Staff are clear about the key arithmetic skills for their year group and the previous year group.					
Je	PracticeToBeSkilled: Arithmetic skills are practised and assessed on a regular basis					
	Key number facts (bonds and multiplication tables) are learnt and practiced regularly.					
Ari	TheAnswerIsOnlyTheBeginning: Mathematical ideas are discussed and reasoned and not passively					
ള	ConvinceMe: Tasks are deliberately designed to encourage pupils to describe, explain, justify, convince and/or prove					
onir	Pupils have opportunities to reason about misconceptions and teacher initiated mistakes to secure understanding			1		
Reas	Comments/Actions:					

Next Steps						
Now	Next (when?)	Later (when?)				