



# Maths Curriculum



**Intent:** At St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, we believe that mathematics is an essential life skill that enables children to make sense of the world around them. Through a high-quality mathematics curriculum, we aim to develop confident, resilient and curious mathematicians who can reason, solve problems and think critically. We believe that the language of mathematics is universal and provides all children with the opportunity to access learning, make progress and achieve success regardless of their starting point.

Rooted in our Catholic ethos, we encourage children to approach mathematics with confidence, perseverance and a growth mindset, recognising that mistakes are an important part of learning.

Our curriculum ensures that all pupils:

- Develop fluency in key mathematical concepts and procedures
- Reason mathematically and justify their thinking using evidence and proof
- Solve problems by applying mathematical knowledge in a range of contexts
- Make connections between different areas of mathematics
- Understand the relevance of mathematics in everyday life
- Develop resilience, independence and confidence as learners

At St Swithun's, we teach mathematics through a CPA approach (Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract), enabling children to develop deep conceptual understanding before moving towards fluency and efficient application.

We aim for pupils to experience enjoyment and curiosity in mathematics, developing the confidence to explore different strategies and select the most effective methods for solving problems.

**Implementation:** At St Swithun's, mathematics is delivered through a carefully sequenced and progressive curriculum that builds on prior learning and develops mastery over time. Our long-term plans are carefully structured and adapted for each phase group to ensure:

- Progression in knowledge and skills
- Small-step learning sequences
- Opportunities for retrieval and revisiting key concepts
- Appropriate challenge and support for all learners

Units are designed to build conceptual understanding and that children revisit and deepen mathematical understanding throughout their time at school, ensuring learning is embedded and retained through:

- Fluency
- Reasoning
- Problem solving

## Teaching Approach

At St Swithun's, lessons follow a structured and supportive teaching sequence that enables all children to succeed.

Lessons typically include:

Retrieval and review of previous learning

Mental arithmetic and fluency practice

Explicit modelling and guided practice

Independent application and problem solving



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## CPA Approach (Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract)

Mathematics is taught using a mastery-inspired CPA approach which ensures children develop secure conceptual understanding before moving towards fluency and abstraction.

Concrete where children first explore concepts using:

- Manipulatives
- Practical resources
- Real-life contexts

Pictorial where children then represent understanding through:

- Drawings and diagrams
- Bar models
- Visual representations

Abstract where children apply understanding through:

- Number sentences
- Formal written methods
- Mental and efficient strategies

## Adaptation and Inclusion

Adaptation is embedded throughout mathematics lessons to ensure all pupils can succeed:

- Use of manipulatives and visual scaffolds
- Carefully sequenced small steps
- Scaffolded reasoning prompts and sentence stems
- Opportunities for challenge and depth
- Flexible grouping and targeted intervention

Teachers maintain high expectations for all pupils while adapting support and challenge appropriately.

## Catholic Social Teaching in mathematics

At St Swithun's, mathematics is enriched through the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Pupils are encouraged to approach learning with perseverance, honesty and respect, recognising the dignity and potential of every learner. Through collaborative problem-solving and discussion, children develop participation, teamwork and mutual support. Mathematics also helps pupils understand and interpret the wider world, enabling them to think critically about issues such as fairness, responsibility and stewardship of resources. By developing logical thinking and resilience, pupils learn to use their knowledge and skills positively for the common good.

**Impact:** By the time pupils leave St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, they will:

- Demonstrate fluency and confidence in key mathematical concepts
- Reason mathematically and justify their thinking clearly
- Solve problems using efficient and appropriate strategies
- Understand the relevance of mathematics in everyday life
- Show resilience and confidence when faced with challenge
- Use mathematical vocabulary accurately and confidently
- Take pride in presenting work clearly and accurately

Pupils leave St Swithun's as confident, resilient and reflective mathematicians who understand the value and importance of mathematics in the wider world and are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

*"The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future"*  
– Theodore Roosevelt