



Numeracy Policy

Aims

- To raise the achievement of all students by seeking to develop the fundamentals in Maths and are able to use Maths effectively in other subjects.
- Develop resilience in problem-solving.
- To ensure that they develop the skills necessary to cope confidently with the demands of further education, employment and adult life.

A numerate student should;

- Be able to make and use sensible estimates of a range of measures in everyday situations.
- Be able to interpret, explain and make predictions from information given in graphs, charts and tables
- Be equipped with a range of problem solving skills.

Rationale: the teaching of numeracy is the responsibility of all staff and the school's approaches should be as consistent as possible across the curriculum.

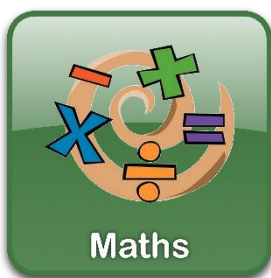
The school will:

- Create a positive and attractive environment which celebrates numeracy
- Provide role models through celebrating the successes of older students
- Ensure that there are planned activities in the curriculum to allow pupils to learn and practice their range of numeracy skills

Each Department will:

Contribute to the raising of numeracy standards within their curriculum area by:

- Highlighting opportunities for the use of numeracy within their subject area
- Endeavouring to ensure that materials presented to students will match their capability both in subject content and in numerical demands.



NUMERACY - DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES

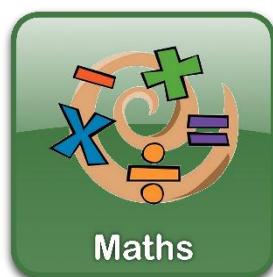
As a teacher you can help children to acquire proficiency in numeracy by giving a sharp focus to the relevant aspects of the program of study for mathematics. The outcome should be numerate pupils who are confident enough to tackle mathematical problems without going immediately to teachers or friends for help.

All teachers and support staff will:

1. Have the highest expectations of the students and ensure that the numerical content is of a high standard.
2. Discourage students from writing down answers only and encourage students to show their numerical working out within the main body of their work.
3. Encourage the use of estimation particularly for checking work.
4. Encourage students to write mathematically correct statements.
5. Recognise that there is never only one correct method and students will be encouraged to develop their own correct methods where appropriate rather than be taught 'set' ways.
6. Allow and encourage students to 'vocalise' their maths - a necessary step towards full understanding for many students.
7. Help students to understand the methods they are using or being taught - students gain more and are likely to remember much more easily if they understand rather than are merely repeating by rote.
8. Encourage students to use non-calculator methods whenever possible.
9. Encourage students to use the correct language e.g. use the word **mean** rather than **average**.
10. If problems with numeracy are identified, then the Mathematics department will be informed and will, if possible, adjust the teaching programme to address the weakness.
11. Use the marking assessment template to ensure that the student receives regular, effective feedback and 'next step' guidance for progression.

Maths

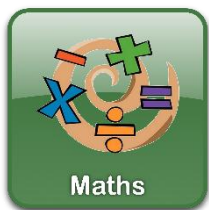
WWW	EBI
- show workings neatly and in detail	- please show your workings in detail
- you have used a pencil and ruler for diagrams	- please use a pencil and ruler for diagrams
- you have broken down difficult problems into smaller steps (Method marks)	- try to break down difficult problems into smaller steps (Method marks)
- you give answers to an appropriate degree of accuracy	- aim to give answers an appropriate degree of accuracy
- you identify the command words in questions	- aim to identify the command words in questions
- you have used appropriate units of measurement	- use appropriate units of measurement
- for longer problems you have checked that you actually answered the original question	- for longer problems check that you have answered the original question
- you have checked that your answer makes sense (by estimating/working backwards)	- check that your answer makes sense (by estimating/working backwards)
- you have corrected your work	- complete all corrections
Numeracy Target: <u>SOLO / NUMBER GRADE AWARDED:</u> <u>Above Target / On Target / Below Target</u>	Write out the correct spelling of the maths keywords:
<u>DIT: Directed Improvement Time</u> Next Step Challenge:	



Maths

Cross-Curricular Numeracy Links

In...	Learners will...
Art and design	Apply number skills such as measurement, estimates, scale, proportion, pattern and shapes to develop, inform and resource their creative activities.
Design and technology	Use mathematical information and data, presented numerically and graphically, to research and develop their ideas. They use number to measure and calculate sizes, fits and materials.
English	Develop skills in the application of number through activities which include number rhymes, ordering events in time, gathering information in a variety of ways, including questionnaires; accessing, selecting, recording and presenting data in a variety of formats.
Information and communication technology	Use mathematical information and data presented numerically and graphically in data-handling software. They use number to collect and enter data for interpretation in spreadsheets and simulations and present their findings as graphs and charts, checking accuracy before processing.
Personal and social education	Select data from given information presented in a range of numerical and graphical ways. Gather information in a variety of ways, including simple questionnaires or databases to support understanding of PSE-related issues [and in KS3 access and select data from relevant information presented in a variety of ways and from different sources], [and in KS4 select from and interpret a variety of methods of presenting data, including pie charts, scatter graphs and line graphs] to support understanding of PSE-related issues.
Physical education	Develop their number skills by using mathematical information and data. They use the language of position (including co-ordinates and compass points) and movement, as well as data handling and measures in athletic and adventurous activities. They use scale in plans and maps. They measure and record performances, <i>e.g. time, distance and height</i> , and use the data to set targets and improve their performance.
Religious education	Develop skills in the application of number by using information such as ordering events in time, by measuring time through the calendars of various religions, by calculating percentages of tithing, and by considering the significance of number within religions. They interpret results/data and present findings from questionnaires, graphs and other forms of data in order to draw conclusions and ask further questions about issues relating to religion and the world.
Science	Work quantitatively to estimate and measure using non-standard and then standard measures, recording the latter with appropriate S.I. units. They use tables, charts and graphs to record and present information. With increasing maturity, they draw lines of best fit on line graphs, use some quantitative definitions and perform scientific calculations.



Age Related Expectations

At the beginning of year 7, pupils should:

- have a sense of the size of a number and where it fits in the number system
- know number bonds by heart e.g. tables, doubles and halves
- use what they know by heart to work out answers mentally
- calculate accurately & efficiently using a variety of strategies, both written & mental
- recognise when AND when not to use a calculator; using it efficiently
- make sense of number problems, including non-routine problems, and recognise the operations needed to solve them
- explain their methods and reasoning using correct mathematical terms
- judge whether their answers are reasonable, and have strategies for checking
- suggest suitable units for measuring
- make sensible estimates for measurements
- explain and interpret graphs, diagrams, charts and tables
- use the numbers in graphs, diagrams, charts and tables to predict.

At the beginning of year 9, pupils should:

- recall mathematical facts confidently
- calculate accurately and efficiently, both mentally and with pencil and paper, drawing on a range of calculation strategies
- use proportional reasoning to simplify and solve problems
- use calculators and other ICT resources appropriately and effectively to solve mathematical problems, and select from the display the number of figures appropriate to the context of a calculation
- use simple formulae and substitute numbers in them
- measure and estimate measurements, choosing suitable units and reading numbers correctly from a range of meters, dials and scales
- calculate simple perimeters, areas and volumes, recognizing the degree of accuracy that can be achieved
- understand and use measures of time and speed, and rates such as £ per litre or miles per hour
- draw plane figures to given specifications and appreciate the concept of scale in geometrical drawings and maps
- understand the difference between the mean, median and mode and the purpose for which each is used
- collect data, discrete and continuous, and draw, interpret and predict from graphs, diagrams, charts and tables
- have some understanding of the measurement of probability and risk
- explain their methods, reasoning and conclusions, using correct mathematical terms
- judge the reasonableness of solutions and check them when necessary
- give their results to a degree of accuracy appropriate to the context

Guide for staff and parents on how topics are taught

Section 1 – Number

Reading and writing numbers

Pupils must be encouraged to write numbers simply and clearly. The symbol for zero with a line through it ($\emptyset$), ones which could be mistaken for 7 (1) and continental sevens (7) should be discouraged.

Most pupils are able to read, write and say numbers up to a thousand, but often have difficulty with larger numbers. It is now common practice to use spaces rather than commas between each group of three figures. eg. 34 000 not 34,000 though the latter will still be found in many text books and cannot be considered incorrect.

In reading large figures pupils should know that the final three figures are read as they are written as **hundreds, tens** and **units**.

Reading from the left, the next three figures are **thousands** and the next group of three are **millions**.

eg. 3 027 251 is three million, twenty seven thousand and fifty one.

Order of Operations

It is important that pupils follow the correct order of operations for arithmetic calculations. Most will be familiar with the mnemonic: **BIDMAS**.

Brackets, Indices, Division, Multiplication, Addition, Subtraction

This shows the order in which calculations should be completed. eg

$$5 + 3 \times 4$$

means

$$5 + 12$$

$$= \underline{17} \quad \checkmark$$

NOT

$$5 + 3 \times 4$$

means 8×4

$$= \underline{32} \quad \text{X}$$

The important facts to remember are that the **B**rackets are done first, **I**ndices (powers), **M**ultiplication and **D**ivision and finally, **A**ddition and **S**ubtraction.

eg(i) $(5 + 3) \times 4$
 $= 8 \times 4$
 $= \underline{32}$

eg (ii) $5 + 6^2 \div 3 - 4$
 $= 5 + 36 \div 3 - 4$
 $= 5 + 12 - 4$
 $= 17 - 4$
 $= \underline{13}$

Care must be taken with **S**ubtraction.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{eg} & 5 + 12 - 4 \\ & = 17 - 4 \\ & = \underline{13} \quad \checkmark \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \text{or} & 5 + 12 - 4 \\ & = 5 + 8 \\ & = \underline{13} \quad \times \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{eg} & 5 - 12 + 4 \\ & = -7 + 4 \\ & = \underline{-3} \quad \checkmark \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \text{but} & 5 - 12 + 4^* \\ & = 5 - 16 \\ & = \underline{-11} \quad \times \end{array}$$

*For this to be correct it would have to be written: $5 - (12 + 4)$ so that the bracket is worked out first.

Calculators

Some pupils are over-dependent on the use of calculators for simple calculations. Wherever possible pupils should be encouraged to use mental or pencil and paper methods. It is, however, necessary to give consideration to the ability of the pupil and the objectives of the task in hand. In order to complete a task successfully it may be necessary for pupils to use a calculator for what you perceive to be a relatively simple calculation. This should be allowed if progress within the subject area is to be made. Before completing the calculation, pupils should be encouraged to make an estimate of the answer. Having completed the calculation on the calculator they should consider whether the answer is reasonable in the context of the question.

Mental Calculations

Most pupils should be able to carry out the following processes mentally though the speed with which they do it will vary considerably.

- recall addition and subtraction facts up to 20
- recall multiplication and division facts for tables up to 10×10 .

Pupils should be encouraged to carry out other calculations mentally using a variety of strategies but there will be significant differences in their ability to do so. It is helpful if teachers discuss with pupils how they have made a calculation. Any method which produces the correct answer is acceptable.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{eg} \quad 53 + 19 = 53 + 20 - 1 \\ \\ 284 - 56 = 284 - 60 + 4 \\ \\ 32 \times 8 = 32 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \end{array}$$

Written Calculations

Pupils often use the '=' sign incorrectly. When doing a series of operations, they sometimes write mathematical sentences which are untrue.

eg $5 \times 4 = 20 + 3 = 23 - 8 = 15$ $\square$ since $5 \times 4 \therefore 15$

It is important that all teachers encourage pupils to write such calculations correctly.

eg $5 \times 4 = 20$
 $20 + 3 = 23$
 $23 - 8 = \underline{15}$ ✓

The '=' sign should only be used when both sides of an operation have the same value. There is no problem with a calculation such as:

$43 + 57 = 40 + 3 + 50 + 7 = 90 + 10 = \underline{100}$ ✓

since each part of the calculation has the same value.

The '≈' (approximately equal to) sign should be used when estimating answers.

eg $2\,378 - 412 \approx 2\,400 - 400$

$2\,400 - 400 = \underline{2\,000}$ ✓

Pencil & Paper Calculations

All pupils should be able to use some pencil and paper methods involving simple addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Some less able pupils will find difficulty in recalling multiplication facts to complete successfully such calculations. In these circumstances it may be more useful to use a calculator in your subject to complete the task.

Before completing any calculation, pupils should be encouraged to estimate a rough value for what they expect the answer to be. This should be done by rounding the numbers and mentally calculating the approximate answer.

After completing the calculation, they should be asked to consider whether or not their answer is reasonable in the context of the question.

There is no necessity to use a particular method for any of these calculations and any with which the pupil is familiar and confident should be used. Many families of schools are now discussing and beginning to agree common methods across schools.

The following methods are some with which pupils may be familiar.

Addition & Subtraction

Estimate

Addition $3\,456 + 975$ $3\,500 + 1\,000 = 4\,500$

$$\begin{array}{r} 3\,456 \\ + \quad 975 \\ \hline 4\,431 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Subtraction by 'counting on'

Estimate

eg $8\,003 - 2\,569$ $8\,000 - 3\,000 = 5\,000$

Start	Add	
2 569	1	
2 570	30	↙
2 600	400	↙
3 000	5 000	↙
8 000	3	↙
Total	<u>5 434</u>	

Subtraction by decomposition

Estimate

eg $\begin{array}{r} 7\,9\,9\,1 \\ \cancel{8}\,\cancel{0}\,\cancel{0}\,3 \\ -2\,5\,6\,9 \\ \hline 5\,4\,3\,4 \end{array}$ $8\,000 - 3\,000 = 5\,000$

Addition and subtraction of decimals is completed in the same way, but reminders may be needed to maintain place value by keeping decimal points in line underneath each other.

Multiplication and Division by 10,100,1000...

When a number is multiplied by 10 its value has increased tenfold and each digit will move one place to the left so multiplying its value by 10. When multiplying by 100 each digit moves two places to the left, and so on... Any empty columns will be filled with zeros so that place value is maintained when the numbers are written without column headings.

eg. $46 \times 100 = 4\,600$

T h	H	T	U
		4	6
4	6	0	0



The same method is used for decimals.

eg. $5.34 \times 10 = 53.4$

H	T	U	.	t	h
		5	.	3	4
	5	3	.	4	

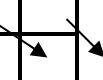


Empty spaces after the decimal point are not filled with zeros. The place value of the numbers is unaffected by these spaces.

When dividing by 10 each digit is moved one place to the right so making it smaller.

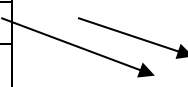
eg. $350 \div 10 = 35$

H	T	U	.	t	h
3	5	0	.		
	3	5	.		



eg. $53 \div 100 = 0.534$

H	T	U	.	t	h
	5	3	.		
		0	.	5	3



When the calculation results in a decimal the units column must be filled with a zero to maintain the place value of the numbers.

Multiplication

$$\begin{array}{r}
 327 \\
 \times 53 \\
 \hline
 981 \quad \leftarrow 327 \times 3 \\
 16350 \quad \leftarrow 327 \times 50 \\
 \hline
 17331
 \end{array}$$

Conventional multiplication as set out above may not suit all pupils and teachers should be aware that other methods may be employed by some pupils.

eg(i) 327×53 Estimate: $300 \times 50 = 15\,000$

X	300	20	7	Total
50	15 000	1000	350	16 350
3	900	60	21	981
Total	15900	1060	371	17331

eg(ii) 456×24 Estimate: $450 \times 20 = 9\,000$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 456 \\
 \times 20 \\
 \hline
 9120 \\
 \text{1 1}
 \end{array}
 +
 \begin{array}{r}
 456 \\
 \times 4 \\
 \hline
 1824 \\
 \text{2 2}
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{r}
 9120 \\
 + 1824 \\
 \hline
 10\,924
 \end{array}$$

Division

$$\begin{array}{r}
 27 \\
 13 \overline{) 351} \\
 - 260 \\
 \hline
 91 \\
 - 91 \\
 \hline
 0
 \end{array}$$

Chunking

is a method for Long Division with which some pupils will be familiar and is based on recall of multiplication of numbers by 5,10, 20 etc. followed by continuous subtraction.

eg $351 \div 13$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 27 \\
 13 \overline{) 351} \\
 - 130 \quad 10 \\
 \hline
 221 \\
 - 130 \quad 10 \\
 \hline
 91 \\
 - 52 \quad 4 \\
 \hline
 39 \\
 - 39 \quad 3 \\
 \hline
 0 \quad 27
 \end{array}$$

Any remainders in this type of calculation should be written as a fraction by dividing the remainder by the number by which the calculation has been divided.

Multiplying Decimals

- As always, estimate the answer.
- Complete the calculation as if there were no decimal points.
- In the answer insert a decimal point so that there are the same number of decimal places in the answer as there were in the original question.
- Check to see if the answer is reasonable

eg (i) $1.2 \times 0.3 \approx 1 \times 0.3 = 0.3$

Ignoring the decimal points, this will be calculated as $12 \times 3 = 36$ and will now need two decimal places in the answer.

$$\therefore 1.2 \times 0.3 = 0.36$$

Similarly:

eg (ii) $43.14 \times 3.5 \approx 40 \times 4 = 160$

	4	3	.	1	4	(2 decimal places)
x			3	.	5	(1 decimal place)
	2	1	5	7	0	
1	2	9	4	2	0	
1	5	0.	9	9	0	(3 dp needed in the answer)

Percentages

Whilst pupils should be familiar with many operations involving percentages in mathematics lessons it is not proposed to elaborate on all of them in this booklet. The following is a sample of operations which pupils will be expected to use in other areas.

Calculating percentages of a quantity

Methods for calculating percentages of a quantity vary depending upon the percentage required. Pupils should be aware that fractions, decimals and percentages are different ways of representing part of a whole and know the simple equivalents

$$\text{eg } 10\% = \frac{1}{10} \qquad 12\% = 0.12$$

Where percentages have simple fraction equivalents, fractions of the amount can be calculated.

- eg.
- i) To find 50% of an amount, halve the amount.
 - ii) To find 75% of an amount, find a quarter by dividing by four and then multiply it by three.

Most other percentages can be found by finding 10%, by dividing by 10, and then finding multiples or fractions of that amount

eg. To find 30% of an amount first find 10% by dividing the amount by 10 and then multiply this by three.
 $30\% = 3 \times 10\%$

Similarly: $5\% = \text{half of } 10\%$ and $15\% = 10\% + 5\%$

Most other percentages can be calculated in this way.

When using a calculator, it is usual to think of the percentage as a decimal. Pupils should be encouraged to convert the question to a sentence containing mathematical symbols. ('of' means X)

eg. Find 27% of £350, becomes
 $0.27 \times £350 =$

and this is how it should be entered into the calculator.

Calculating the amount as a percentage

In every case the amount should be expressed as a fraction of the original amount and then converted to a percentage in one of the following ways:

- i) What is 15 as a percentage of 60?
(using simple fractions)

$$\frac{15}{60} = \frac{1}{4} = 25\%$$

- ii) What is 27 out of 50 as a percentage?
(using equivalent fractions)

$$\frac{27}{50} \times 2 = \frac{54}{100} = 54\%$$

- iii) What is 39 as a percentage of 57?
(Using a calculator)

$$\frac{39}{57} = 39 \div 57 = 0.684 \text{ (to 3 d.p.)} = 68.4\%$$

Section 2 – Algebra

The most common use of algebra across the curriculum will be in the use of formulae.

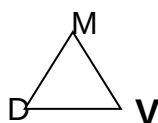
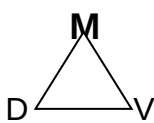
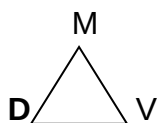
When transforming formulae pupils will be taught to use the 'balancing' method where they do the same to both sides of an equation.

eg (i) $A = lb$ Make b the subject of the formula

$$[\div l] \quad \frac{A}{l} = b$$

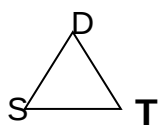
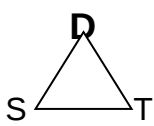
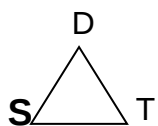
However, in some cases triangles can be useful for specific cases.

eg Density = $\frac{\text{Mass}}{\text{Volume}}$



Density = $\frac{\text{Mass}}{\text{Volume}}$, **Mass** = Density x Volume, **Volume** = $\frac{\text{Mass}}{\text{Density}}$

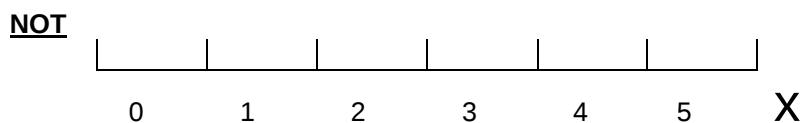
Similarly, with **Distance, Speed and Time**



Speed = $\frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{Time}}$, **Distance** = Speed x Time, **Time** = $\frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{Speed}}$

Plotting Points

When drawing a diagram on which points have to be plotted some pupils will need to be reminded that the numbers written on the axes must be on the lines not in the spaces.



Axes

When drawing graphs to represent experimental data it is usual to use the horizontal axis for the variable which has a regular class interval.

eg In an experiment in which temperature is taken every 5 minutes the horizontal axis would be used for time and the vertical axis for temperature.

Having plotted points pupils can sometimes be confused as to whether or not they should join the points. If the results are from an experiment, then a 'line of best fit' will usually be needed. Further details appear in the following section on Data Handling.

Section 3 – Data Handling

It is important that graphs and diagrams are drawn on the appropriate paper:

- bar charts and line graphs on squared or graph paper.
- pie charts on plain paper.

Bar Charts

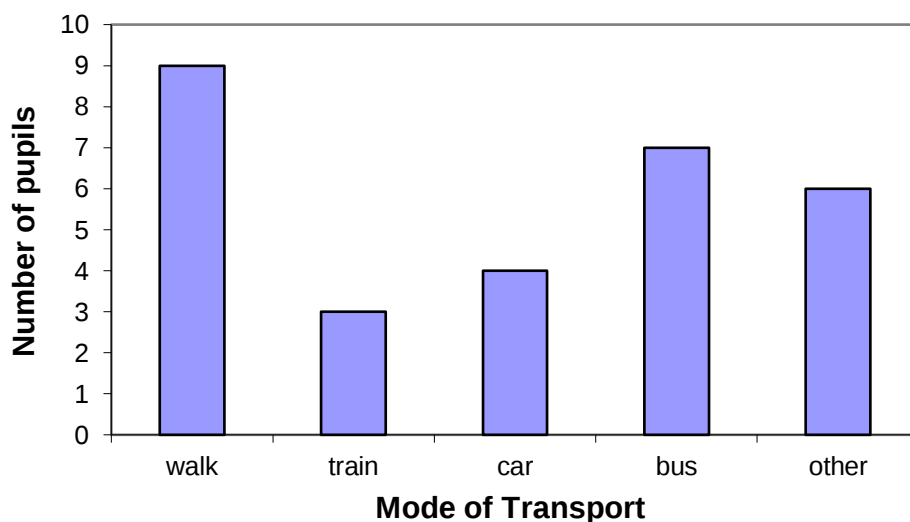
These are the diagrams most frequently used in areas of the curriculum other than mathematics. The way in which the graph is drawn depends on the type of data to be processed.

Graphs should be drawn with **gaps between the bars** if the data categories are not numerical (colours, makes of car, names of pop star, etc). There should also be gaps if the data is numeric but can only take a particular value (shoe size, KS3 level, etc). In cases where there are gaps in the graph the horizontal axis will be labelled beneath the columns.

The labels on the vertical axis should be on the lines.

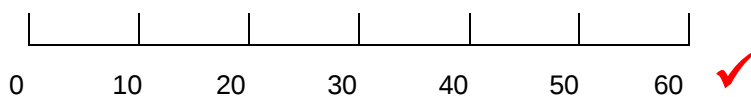
eg.

Bar Chart to show representation of non-numerical data



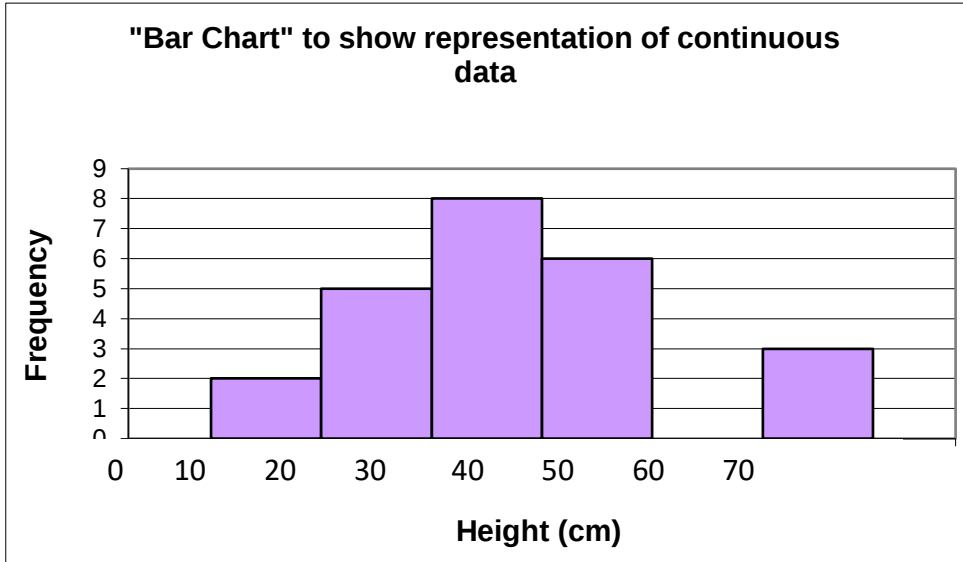
Where the data are continuous, eg. lengths, the horizontal scale should be like the scale used for a graph on which points are plotted.

eg



NOT

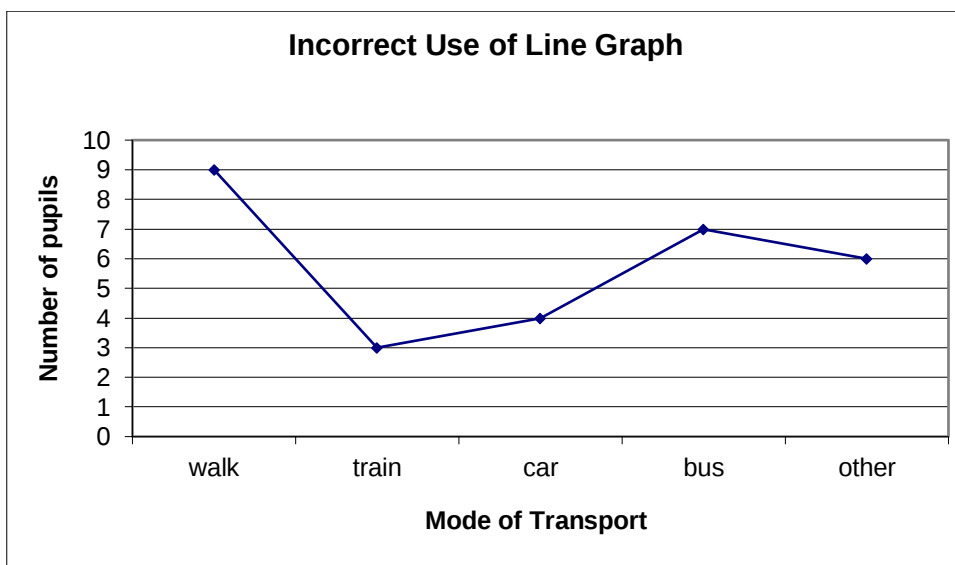




Line Graphs

Line graphs should only be used with data in which the order in which the categories are written is significant.

Points are joined if the graph shows a trend or when the data values between the plotted points make sense to be included. For example, the measure of a patient's temperature at regular intervals shows a pattern but not a definitive value.



Computer Drawn Graphs & Diagrams

Pupils throughout the school should be able to use **Excel** or other spreadsheets to draw graphs to represent data. Because it is easy to produce a wide variety of graphs there is

a tendency to produce diagrams that have little relevance. Pupils should always be encouraged to write a comment explaining their observations from the graph.

Pie Charts

The way in which pupils should be expected to work out angles for a pie chart will depend on the complexity of the question. If the numbers involved are simple it will be possible to calculate simple fractions of 360° .

eg. The following table shows the results of a survey of 30 pupils travelling to school. Show this information on a pie chart.

Mode of Transport	Frequency	Fraction	Angle
Walk	10	$\frac{1}{3}$	120°
Train	3	$\frac{1}{10}$	36°
Car	5	$\frac{1}{6}$	60°
Bus	6	$\frac{1}{5}$	72°
Other	6	$\frac{1}{5}$	72°
Total	30	1	360°

Pie Chart showing pupil modes of transport



However, with more difficult numbers which do not readily convert to a simple fraction pupils should first work out the share of 360° to be allocated to **one** item and then multiply this by its frequency.

eg. 180 pupils were asked their favourite core subject.

Each pupils has $360 \div 180 = 2^\circ$ of the pie chart.

Subject	Number of pupils	Pie Chart Angle
English	63	$63 \times 2 = 126^\circ$
Mathematics	75	$75 \times 2 = 150^\circ$
Science	42	$42 \times 2 = 84^\circ$
Total	180	360°

If the data is in percentage form each item will be represented by 3.6° on the pie. To calculate the angle pupils will need to multiply the frequency by 3.6.

eg. 43% will be represented by $43 \times 3.6 = 154.8^\circ$
 $\approx \underline{155^\circ}$

Any calculations of angles should be rounded to the nearest degree only at the **final stage of the calculation**. If the number of items to be shown is 47 each item will need:

$$360 \div 47 = 7.659574468^\circ$$

This complete number should be used when multiplying by the frequency and then rounded to the nearest degree.

Using Data

Range

The range of a set of data is the difference between the highest and the lowest data values.

eg. If in an examination the highest mark is 80% and the lowest mark is 45%, the range is 35% because $80\% - 45\% = 35\%$

The range is always a **single number**, so it is **NOT** $45\% - 80\%$

Averages

Three different averages are commonly used:

Mean - is calculated by adding up all the values and dividing by the number of values.

Median - is the middle value when a set of values has been arranged in order.

Mode - is the most common value. It is sometimes called the **modal group**.

eg. for the following values: **3, 2, 5, 8, 4, 3, 6, 3, 2,**

$$\text{Mean} = \frac{3 + 2 + 5 + 8 + 4 + 3 + 6 + 3 + 2}{9} = \frac{36}{9} = 4$$

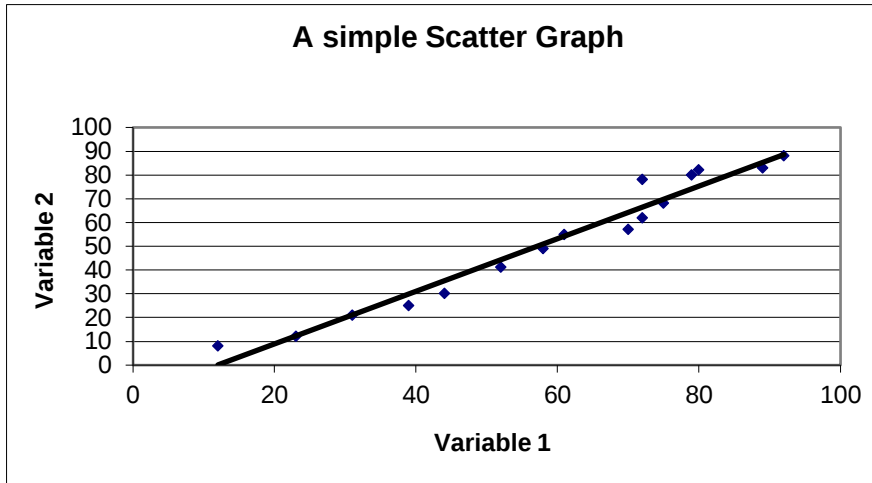
Median - is 3 because 3 is in the middle when the values are put in order.

2, 2, 3, 3, **3**, 4, 5, 6, 8

Mode - is 3 because 3 is the value which occurs most often.

Scatter graphs

These are used to compare two sets of numerical data. The two values are plotted on two axes labelled as for continuous data. If possible a 'line of best fit' should be drawn.



The degree of correlation between the two sets of data is determined by the proximity of the points to the 'line of best fit'

The above graph shows a positive correlation between the two variables. However, you need to ensure that there is a reasonable connection between the two, e.g. ice cream sales and temperature. Plotting use of mobile phones against cost of houses will give two increasing sets of data but are they connected?

Negative correlation depicts one variable increasing as the other decreases, no correlation comes from a random distribution of points. See diagrams overleaf.

