



THE CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
OF ST. SAVIOUR AND ST. MARY OVERIE

Calculator Policy

Cathedral School Calculator Policy

Aims and Objectives

To ensure that all children can use a calculator confidently and efficiently as an aid to their mathematical calculations.

To ensure that children are familiar with calculators before they enter Year 4

OVERVIEW

The use of a calculator as a tool to carry out calculations is embedded within the National Curriculum Key Stage 2 Programme of Study for Mathematics. The use of calculators is assessed in the statutory tests at the end of Key Stage 2. As a result it is important that children become confident users of calculators. They need to recognise that the calculator is a tool they are in control of and to understand how it can help them to develop their mathematics. The teacher controls the children's access to and use of the calculator. The calculator is not a prop for calculations that can and should be carried out mentally or with pencil and paper.

The use of calculators in Foundation stage, KS1 and Year 3

The calculator can be an effective teaching and learning resource in the primary classroom. All children at Cathedral school should be given the opportunity to use and become familiar with calculators in a range of contexts to ensure that by the time they reach year 4 they have a basic understanding of how to use a calculator. The following examples highlight how this might be achieved in these year groups:

Foundation Stage children become familiar with calculators, and how they can be used, through play. They use calculators in role-play such as the garden centre, the shop or the post office, and play with them to explore what the keys do.

By the end of Year 1 children are expected to be able to read and write numbers to 20 and beyond. Keying in two-digit numbers and reading them accurately is an activity that supports these skills.

In Year 2 children are expected to describe patterns in numbers and derive and recall the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Using the constant facility on a calculator to add 2s, 5s and 10s repeatedly to 0 is a way to derive the multiples and can help children identify the pattern of the numbers in the sequence.

A key objective in Year 3 involves place value and the partitioning of three-digit numbers. Using the calculator can give children the opportunity to practice and apply their knowledge, skills and understanding.

With this in mind all children should enter Year 4 with a basic understanding of how to use a calculator.

The use of calculators in Year 4, 5 & 6

In years 4, 5 & 6 children work on objectives within the Numeracy lesson that make specific reference to the use of the calculator.

By the end of Year 4 children should be able to:

- Clear the display before starting a calculation;
- Correct mistaken entries using the clear entry key;
- Carryout 1 & 2 step calculations that involve all four operations;
- Interpret the display correctly, particularly in the context of money;
- Recognise and use the sign change key.

By the end of Year 5 children should be able to:

- Estimate the likely size of an answer and check answers appropriately;
- Carry out measurement calculations and interpret the answer;
- Solve problems involving fractions.

By the end of Year 6 children should be able to:

- Solve problems using multi step calculations;
- Recognise rounding errors;
- Recognise recurring decimals;
- Use brackets, the memory and square root key.

Equal Opportunities/Special Needs

Cathedral School has a clearly stated Equal Opportunities Policy. We recognise that all pupils have the right to equal access to all resources and knowledge under appropriate supervision. Teachers will differentiate where appropriate and this will be shown in their planning.

Assessment

Children's use of calculators is formally assessed in KS2 SATs. The children's use of calculators will be informally assessed through direct observation and marking. The Numeracy Subject Leader will monitor the use of calculators.

Resources

All classes across the school will have calculators for use as directed by the class teacher. All classes in Key Stage 2 will have a full class set of calculators. Teachers should also use online and ITP calculators on the Interactive Whiteboard for whole class and group demonstrations.