Schools & Families Programme
Secondary Schools

Thank you for your interest in National Numeracy's Schools & Families Programme. Please find below some commonly asked questions about participating in the programme. If you have any further concerns or questions, please email schoolsandfamilies@nationalnumeracy.org.uk

We also recommend watching this short video about the programme covering each of the programme activities in more detail: **WATCH RECORDING HERE**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is the programme for?

The programme is designed for all Year 7/S1 students, their families and school staff.

2. What are the programme aims?

With this programme, we aim to increase:

- The value placed on maths in daily life and across all job roles by students and adults.
- Students' confidence with, and enjoyment of maths.
- Family engagement with maths.
- Parents' and school staff's confidence in supporting young people with maths.

3. How much curriculum or pastoral time is needed for the programme?

No Maths curriculum time is needed to complete the programme.

Some pastoral time may be used optionally to support conversations around the 'This is Maths' posters or to introduce the Family Activities to students.

4. What are the Family Activities and how are they used?

The Family Activities are a set of 12 conversation prompts for Year 7/S1 students to use together at home. The conversations are not curriculum linked and are instead focused on talking about attitudes towards maths and the value of maths in everyday life and at work.

The activities are available either as digital PDFs or in a pre-printed booklet (provided by National Numeracy) and schools can choose the frequency in which they are sent home (12 activities averages around one per fortnight).

There is space on the activities for students and their families to write any reflections, but the activities do not need to be marked.

They are suitable for all Year 7 students and their families, regardless of their attainment levels.

Please see the following pages for examples.

5. How much staff time is needed to participate in the programme?

The programme has been designed with staff workload in mind, and the time commitments are outlined below:

- Numeracy Champions training in November 2026 – 2 x 2 hours online for 2-5 staff members. Multiple dates available.
- Termly online Forum in March and June 2027 – 1 hour with two times available. One member of staff to attend

All other parts of the programme are flexible to the school's capacity. Other CPD and webinars are available through online recordings later in the week.

6. What activities will students get involved in?

Family Activities – *see question 4*

'This is Maths'

- Set of 10 posters (printed and provided by National Numeracy) to be displayed in school. Each poster depicts a different career along with the phrase 'This is Maths'. There are some examples later in this document.
- Posters are designed to prompt discussion about how maths and numbers are used in all jobs, even non-STEM roles.
- There is a teacher discussion guide with ideas about how these could be used in assembly or pastoral time. It is the school's choice how to use these.

Corporate Volunteering Programme

- If there is a local volunteer available, we will arrange with you for a volunteer from one of our corporate partners to visit the school and talk with Year 7/S1 students about their own experiences of maths and how they use maths and numbers in their job and hobbies.
- This is a one-off visit that can include an assembly and/or classroom sessions.

National Numeracy Day Campaign

- Wednesday 19th May 2027
- Schools will be invited to participate in our flagship campaign of National Numeracy Day.
- We will work with schools in the pilot to understand the types of activities best to provide.

7. How can parents and carers get involved?

Family Activities – *see question 4*

Parent Workshop

- This is an optional one-off 30 mins workshop that trained Numeracy Champions staff can deliver either in-person or online.
- The workshop looks at how parents/carers can support their child to develop a positive attitude towards maths and understand its value in everyday life and at work.

National Numeracy Challenge

- All adults can access our free, online platform to improve their everyday numeracy skills and confidence.

National Numeracy will also provide schools with a range of communication resources and templates to talk to parents and carers about the programme.

8. What data will be collected and when?

National Numeracy will collect participation and engagement data at the end of each term in March and June/July. This is whole year group numbers, not individual student data. We do not collect any attainment data. We are interested in the numbers of students and their families engaging with the activities.

Data will be collected via online surveys.

At the end of the project, we will look to collect impact and qualitative data from students, their families and staff through short, online surveys.

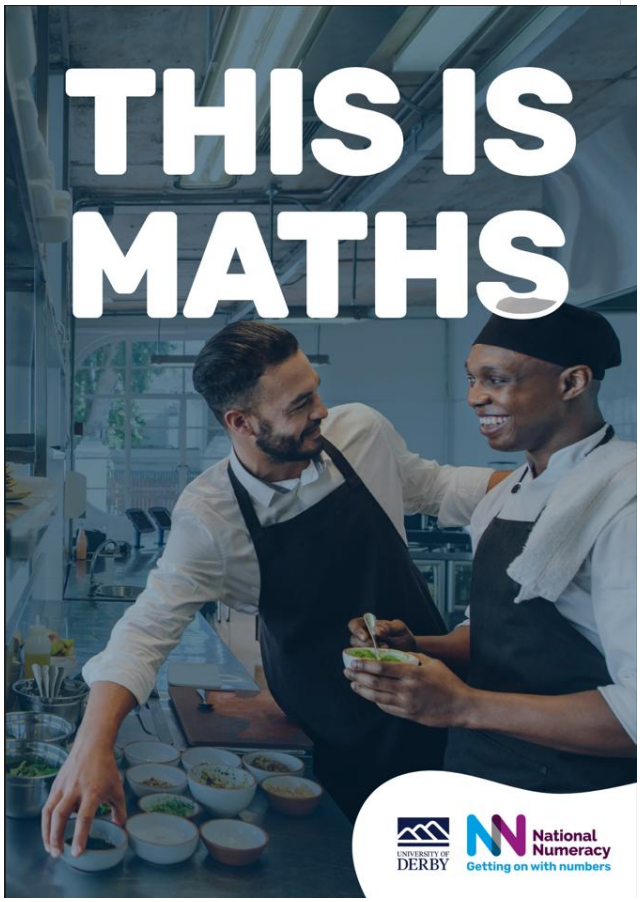
We also plan to visit a sample of schools to understand how the programme is working in practice and gather more in-depth feedback from participants.

All data is collected in line with UK GDPR and student and parent/carer data is usually collected anonymously.

9. How should the school contribution be used?

All participating schools will receive a £500 contribution. This should be used towards cover costs for staff to attend Numeracy Champions and Forums. We would also like some to be used towards encouraging student and family engagement. This could be prize draws, pizza parties – it's up to the school. We'll be looking to find out what works!





HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MATHS?

National Numeracy
Getting on with numbers

In this activity, we're going to look into how adults and teenagers feel about maths.

Everyone has their own feelings about maths. You might enjoy it, find it hard, feel good, or unsure about it, or a mix of all these.

We've found that these are the most common feelings people have about maths:

Comfortable | Panic | Love | Happy | Defeated | Interested | Worried | Excited | Stupid | Bored | Good | Nervous | Fine | Confident | Anxious

Think About It	Talk with you family
Take a moment to think about how maths makes you feel. Which word would you choose?	Ask family or friends how they feel about maths. Which words would they choose?
Think about why you feel like this.	Why do they feel that way?

You can also watch this video to hear what other people have to say. →

What did you learn?

- Write down the words that people chose.
- Are there any words or feelings that come up more than once? Did any surprise you?

Student's comments:

Lots of people feel good about maths, but many don't, and there are lots of reasons why people feel this way.

Whatever the reason, feeling worried about maths doesn't mean you can't get better at it. By giving it a go and sticking with it, your feelings may start to change.

In the other activities, we look at what people say about maths, where we use it in everyday life, and how to start to feel better about it.

Parent/ carer comments:

