

Teaching for Mastery Lesson Design at Brackensdale Primary School A Primary Case Study



Teaching for Mastery Lesson Design Work Group

One of the biggest challenges facing schools as they adopt a teaching for mastery approach is how to design lessons. Working collaboratively with practitioners from across the East Midlands the project, we began by identifying the key features of mastery, before exploring a route through a lesson, that allowed teachers to link these together in a coherent manner. Essentially we were looking at how to turn theory into outstanding classroom practice. Though our research often went much wider what is captured here in these case studies, each participant school was asked to focus in on one aspect of lesson design, how it has been incorporated into classroom practice, and the impact it has had on learners.

Overview

Brackensdale Primary School is a large, newly merged school (formerly separate infants and juniors). In September 2017, after trialling in a small number of classes, the staff decided to begin using a mastery approach to teaching maths, supported by the White Rose Scheme of Work. To support the successful transition from a spiral curriculum to a mastery approach, it was identified that staff would need support with planning and delivering lessons which fit the principles of teaching for mastery. Laura Johnson, the maths lead for Key Stage Two, applied to be part of the Mastery Lesson Design Work Group to gather all the elements of good practice and then be able to share this with all staff at school.

What we did at YOUR SCHOOL NAME

| Where we started | What we did | What we plan to do next |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before September 2017, KS1 staff were using White Rose resources but KS2 were still following a spiral curriculum, supported by text books. • Reasoning and problem solving was taught as a separate element of maths and sometimes only for those higher attaining pupils. • Some KS2 staff had trialled White Rose after attending maths network meetings, and fed back to SLT that this could be a way to move the maths teaching on and allow children to develop a deeper understanding of maths. • Staff meeting time was used before the start of the academic year for staff to become familiar with White Rose documents. • EYFS/KS1 and KS2 merged in January 2018. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audit of resources was carried out and new resources purchased to support the concrete-pictorial-abstract approach and ensure that access to equipment was not a barrier. • Staff from the maths team delivered staff meetings to model how to use the new equipment across different strands of maths in different year groups, as well as sharing further examples from White Rose documents. • Lesson observations in the Autumn term focused on how teaching for mastery was being implemented, with a focus on integrating reasoning and problem solving into the lesson and making it accessible for all children. Observations in Spring term showed this was already embedded in practice as it was seen in every year group. • Several members of staff accessed CPD from the East Midlands West Maths Hub to introduce the principles behind the mastery approach and observe lessons in action. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff meeting time has been allocated across the year, beginning in Summer Term 2. This is in short 20 minute blocks to allow the 9 key ideas of mastery to be introduced one at a time. Staff will be given time to go and practice this one element before bringing an example back to share with staff, either what went well or something that was difficult. • The 9 key ideas behind teaching for mastery have been carefully prioritised, so that the smaller 'low cost-high impact' elements such as stem sentences and generalised statements can be implemented immediately during the summer term, whereas concepts such as variation and coherence will be discussed in September. |

More Information

For more information about this project, or other workgroups and opportunities available through the East Midlands West Maths Hub:

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Follow us on Twitter: EM_MathsHub

Email: mathshub@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk