## Progression in Calculations Policy

At the centre of the mastery approach to the teaching of mathematics is the belief that all pupils have the potential to succeed. Children should all have access to their age-appropriate curriculum content and, rather than being extended with new learning, they should deepen their conceptual understanding by tackling varied and challenging problems. Similarly with calculation strategies, pupils must not simply rote learn procedures but demonstrate their understanding of these principles and concepts through the use of concrete materials and pictorial representations to ensure fluency and depth of understanding.

The rationale of the concrete-pictorial-abstract (CPA) approach is that for pupils to have a true understanding of a mathematical concept, they need to master all three phases. Reinforcement is achieved by going back and forth between these representations. Pupils who grasp concepts rapidly should be challenged through rich and sophisticated problems before any acceleration through new content. Those pupils who are not sufficiently fluent with earlier material should consolidate their understanding, including additional practice, before moving on.

There is also an emphasis placed on instant recall of number bonds and times tables. These need to be mastered to aid with calculations and more challenging problems in readiness for the Multiplication Test at the end of Year 4.

This document outlines the progression of different calculation strategies that could be taught and used from Reception - Year 6, in line with the requirements of the 2014 Primary National Curriculum.

This guidance is to make teachers and parent/carers aware of the progression of strategies that pupils are formally taught that will support them to perform mental and written calculations. In addition, it will support teachers in identifying appropriate pictorial representations and concrete materials to help develop understanding. We have assigned objectives to year groups based upon National Curriculum expectations. However, it is important to remember that it may sometimes be necessary to revisit strategies from previous year groups if children are working below age related expectations.

This guidance only details the strategies; teachers must plan opportunities for pupils to apply these. Concrete materials shown here are for exemplification; there are many other resources which can be used to aid pupil understanding.

Ideas and images have been derived from The White Rose Calculation policy, Ark maths mastery documentation, NCETM materials and Edgewood Primary School's calculation


## Progression in each calculation

|  | Year R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Addition | Counting a set of objects. <br> Knowing 1 more or 1 less <br> Place numbers in order of size | Combining two parts to make a whole: part whole model Starting at the bigger number and counting on <br> Regrouping to make 10 | Adding three single digits. <br> Column method no regrouping | Column methodregrouping. (up to 3 digits) | Column methodregrouping. (up to 4 digits) | Column methodregrouping. (with more than 4 digits) (Decimals- with the same amount of decimal places) | Column methodregrouping. (Decimals- with different amounts of decimal places) |
| Subtraction | One less than / Taking away ones | Taking away ones Counting back Find the difference Part whole model Make 10 | Counting back <br> Find the difference <br> Part whole model <br> Make 10 <br> Column methodno regrouping | Column method with regrouping. (up to 3 digits) | Column method with regrouping. (up to 4 digits) | Column method with regrouping. (with more than 4 digits) (Decimals- with the same amount of decimal places) | Column method with regrouping. (Decimals- with different amounts of decimal places) |
| Multiplication | Doubling | Doubling <br> Counting in multiples <br> Arrays (with support) | Doubling Counting in multiples Repeated addition Arrays- showing commutative multiplication | Counting in multiples Repeated addition Arrays- showing commutative multiplication Grid method | Column multiplication <br> (2 and 3 digit multiplied by 1 digit) | Column multiplication <br> (up to 4 digit numbers multiplied by 1 or 2 digits) | Column multiplication <br> (multi digit up to 4 digits by a 2 digit number) |
| Division | Halving | Sharing objects equally Division as grouping | Division as grouping Division within arrays | Division within arrays <br> Division with a remainder Short division (2 digits by 1 digitconcrete and pictorial) | Division within arrays Division with a remainder Short division (up to 3 digits by 1 digit- concrete and pictorial) | Short division <br> (up to 4 digits by a <br> 1 digit number interpret remainders appropriately for the context) | Short division Long division (up to 4 digits by a 2 digit numberinterpret remainders as whole numbers, fractions or round) |

## Mathematical language

The 2014 National Curriculum is explicit in articulating the importance of children using the correct mathematical language as a central part of their learning. Indeed, in certain year groups, the non-statutory guidance highlights the requirement for children to extend their language around certain concepts.

It is therefore essential that teaching using the strategies outlined in this policy is accompanied by the use of appropriate mathematical vocabulary. New vocabulary should be introduced in a suitable context (for example, with relevant real objects, apparatus, pictures or diagrams) and explained carefully.

The quality and variety of language that pupils hear and speak are key factors in developing their mathematical vocabulary and presenting a mathematical justification, argument or proof.

2014 Maths Programme of Study

High expectations of the mathematical language used are essential, with teachers only accepting what is correct.

| Correct | Incorrect |
| :---: | :---: |
| ones | units |
| is equal to | equals |
| zero | oh <br> (the letter O) |

The expectation is that pupils will, at all times, answer in full sentences.
Sentence stems can be used to help pupils with this if required.

| Acceptable | Not acceptable |
| :---: | :---: |
| The answer is 17 | 17 |
| 9 multiplied by 3 is 27 | 27 |

## say, you say, you say, you say, we all say

This technique enables the teacher to provide a sentence stem for children to communicate their ideas with mathematical precision and clarity. These sentence structures often express key conceptual ideas or generalities and provide a framework to embed conceptual knowledge and build understanding. For example:

If the rectangle is the whole, the shaded part is one third of the whole.

Having modelled the sentence, the teacher then asks individual children to repeat this, before asking the whole class to chorus chant the sentence. This provides children with a valuable sentence for talking about fractions. Repeated use helps to embed key conceptual knowledge.

## Addition

| Yr/ <br> Stage | Strategy/ <br> Method | New <br> Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \underline{\text { Stage }} \\ & \underline{1} \\ & \text { Yr R } \end{aligned}$ | Counting a set of objects <br> Knowing 1 more or 1 less <br> Place numbers in order of size | One more <br> One less <br> Bigger <br> Larger |  |  |  |
| Stage <br> $\underline{2}$ <br> Yr R + <br> 1 | Combining two parts to make a whole: part-whole model | Addition <br> Sum <br> Total <br> Parts and <br> wholes <br> Plus <br> Add <br> Altogether <br> More than <br> Equal to <br> Same as | Use cubes to add two numbers together as a group or in a bar: | Use pictures to add two numbers together as a group or in a bar: | Use the part-part whole diagram as shown to move into the abstract: $\begin{gathered} 4+3=7 \\ 10=6+4 \end{gathered}$ |


| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { Yr/ } \\ \text { Stage } \end{array}$ | Strategy/ <br> Method | New Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \underline{\text { Stage }} \\ & \underline{\mathbf{3}} \\ & \text { Yr } 1 \end{aligned}$ | Start at the bigger number and count on |  | Start with the larger number on the bead string and then count on to the smaller number 1 by 1 to find the answer. | Start at the larger number on the number line and count on in ones or in one jump to find the answer. $12+5=7$ | Place the larger number in your head and count on the smaller number to find your answer. $5+12=17$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \underline{\text { Stage }} \\ & \underline{4} \\ & \text { Yr } 1 \end{aligned}$ | Regrouping to make 10 | Regroup <br> Partition | Regroup $9+3$ into $10+2$ before adding together: <br> Start with the larger number and use the smaller number to make 10 $6+5=11$ | Use pictures or a number line. Regroup or partition the smaller number to make 10 before adding. $3+9=$ $9+5=14$ <br> Children move on to using an 'empty number line'. <br> E.g. $7+5$ becomes $7+3+2$ | $7+4=11$ <br> If I am at seven, how many more do I need to make 10 ? <br> How many more do I add on now? $7+5=7+3+2=12$ |


| Yr/ <br> Stage | Strategy/ <br> Method | New Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stage <br> ㄴ <br> Yr 2 | Adding three single digits | Addition <br> Sum <br> Total <br> Parts and wholes <br> Plus <br> Add <br> Altogether <br> More than <br> Equal to <br> Same as | $4+7+6=17$ <br> Put 4 and 6 together to make 10. Add on 7. <br> Following on from making 10, make 10 with 2 of the digits (if possible) then add on the third digit. | Add together three groups of objects. Draw a picture to recombine the groups to make 10. | $\begin{aligned} \frac{4+7+6}{10} & =10+7 \\ & =17 \end{aligned}$ <br> Combine the two numbers that make 10 and then add on the remainder. |
| $\begin{aligned} & \underline{\text { Stage }} \\ & \underline{6} \\ & \text { Yr } 2 \end{aligned}$ | Column addition without regrouping | Regroup <br> Partition | Partition the numbers into tens and ones using base 10 blocks, place value counters. <br> Add together the ones first then add the tens. Finally add the 2 totals together. $24+15=39$   $44+15=59$ | After practically using the base 10 blocks and place value counters, children can draw the counters to help them to solve additions. $32+23=55$  | $\begin{array}{r} 21+42= \\ 21 \\ +\underline{42} \end{array}$ <br> Record the calculation vertically adding the column of ones then the column of tens. |




## Subtraction

| $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{Yr} / \\ & \text { Stage } \end{aligned}$ | Strategy/ <br> Method | New Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stage <br> 1 <br> Yr R <br> Yr 1 | One less than / <br> Taking away ones | One less <br> Take away <br> Less than <br> The difference <br> Subtract <br> Minus <br> Fewer <br> Decrease | Use physical objects, counters, cubes numicon, etc, to show how objects can be taken away. $6-2=4$ | Cross out drawn objects to show what has been taken away. $15-3=12$ | $18-3=15$ $8-2=6$ <br> Although number sentences are recorded in the concrete and pictorial methods children are introduced to them on their own while encouraging them to mentally take away ones. |
| $\begin{aligned} & \underline{\text { Stage }} \\ & \underline{\mathbf{2}} \\ & \text { Yr R } \\ & \text { Yr } 1 \\ & \text { Yr } 2 \end{aligned}$ | Counting back | One less <br> Take away <br> Less than <br> The difference <br> Subtract <br> Minus <br> Fewer <br> Decrease | Make the larger number in your subtraction. Move the beads along your bead string as you count backwards in ones. $13-4$ <br> Use counters and move them away from the group as you take them away counting backwards as you go. | Count back on a number line or number track <br> Start at the bigger number and count back the smaller number showing the jumps on the number line. <br> This can progress all the way to counting back using two 2 digit numbers. | For $13-4$, put 13 in your head and count back 4. <br> What number are you at? <br> Use your fingers to help. |


| $\mathrm{Yr} /$ <br> Stage | Strategy/ <br> Method | New Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stage <br> $\underline{3}$ <br> Yr 1 <br> Yr 2 | Find the difference | One less <br> Take away <br> Less than <br> The difference <br> Subtract <br> Minus <br> Fewer <br> Decrease | Compare amounts and objects to find the difference. <br> Use cubes to build towers or make bars to find the difference. <br> Use basic bar models with items to find the difference. | Count on to find the difference: <br> Draw bars to find the difference between 2 numbers. <br> Comparison Bar Models <br> Lisa is 13 years old. Her sister is 22 years old. Find the difference in age between them. | Hannah has 23 sandwiches, Helen has 15 sandwiches. Find the difference between the number of sandwiches. |
| Stage <br> 4 <br> Yr 1 <br> Yr 2 | Part Whole Model | Part <br> Whole <br> Inverse | Link to addition - use the part whole model to help explain the inverse between addition and subtraction. <br> If 10 is the whole and 6 is one of the parts. What is the other part? $10-6=$ | Use a pictorial representation of objects to show the part whole model. $6-2=4$ | Move to using numbers within the part whole model. |


| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { Yr/ } \\ \text { Stage } \end{array}$ | Strategy/ <br> Method | New Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stage <br> ㄷ <br> Yr 1 <br> Yr 2 | Make 10 | Ten frame <br> Remaining <br> Take off <br> Count back | $14-5=$ <br> Make 14 on the ten frame. Take away the four first to make 10 and then takeaway one more so you have taken away 5. You are left with the answer of 9 . | Start at 13. Count back 3 to reach 10. Then count back the remaining 4 so you have taken away 7 altogether. <br> You have reached your answer. | $16-8=$ <br> How many do we take off to reach the previous 10? (6) <br> How many do we have left to take off? (2) |
| $\begin{aligned} & \underline{\text { Stage }} \\ & \underline{6} \\ & \text { Yr } 2 \end{aligned}$ | Column method without regrouping | Column <br> Partition <br> Larger | Use Base 10 to make the bigger number then take the smaller <br> number away. <br> Show how you partition numbers to subtract. <br> Again make the larger | Draw the Base 10 or place value counters alongside the written calculation to help to show working: | Partitioned numbers are written vertically: <br> For 54-22 $\begin{array}{cc} \text { Tens } & \text { Ones } \\ 50 & 4 \\ - & 20 \\ \hline 30+2 \\ \hline 20 & 2 \end{array}$ <br> This will lead to a clear written column subtraction: $\begin{array}{r} 32 \\ -\quad 12 \\ \hline 20 \end{array}$ |




## Multiplication

| $\mathrm{Yr} /$ <br> Stage | Strategy/ <br> Method | New Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stage <br> 1 <br> Yr R <br> Yr 1 <br> Yr 2 | Doubling | Double <br> Count on (from, to) <br> Count back (from, to <br> Count in ones, twos, tens... <br> Is the same as | Use practical activities to show how to double a number. | Draw pictures to show how to double a number. | Partition a number and then double each part before recombining it back together. $4 \times 2=8$ |
| Stage <br> $\underline{2}$ <br> Yr R <br> Yr $1+$ <br> Yr 2 <br> (x2, 5, <br> 10) <br> Yr3 <br> (x3, 4, <br> 8) | Counting in multiples | Multiplied by The product of Groups of Lots of Is equal to | Count in multiples supported by concrete objects in equal groups. | Use a number line or pictures to continue support in counting in multiples. | Count out loud in multiples of a number. <br> Write sequences with multiples of numbers. $\begin{aligned} & 2,4,6,8,10 \\ & 5,10,15,20,25,30 \end{aligned}$ |


| Yr/ <br> Stage | Strategy/ <br> Method | New <br> Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stage <br> 3 <br> Yr 2 <br> Yr 3 | Repeated addition |  | Use different objects to add equal groups. $3+3+3$ | There are 3 plates. Each plate has 2 star biscuits on. How many biscuits are there? <br> 2 add 2 add 2 equals 6 <br> Repeated addition can be shown on a labelled or empty number line. <br> Eg $5+5+5=15$ : <br> 0123456789101112131415 <br> Begin to relate repeated addition to multiplication using 'lots of'. <br> e.g. 3 lots of $5=15$ | Write addition sentences to describe objects and pictures. <br> This then leads to writing related multiplication sentences e.g. $2 \times 5=10$ |


| Yr/ <br> Stage | Strategy/ <br> Method | New Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \frac{\text { Stage }}{4} \\ & (\text { Yr 1) } \\ & \text { Yr } 2 \\ & \text { Yr } 3 \end{aligned}$ | Arrays - showing commutative multiplication | Array Commutative | Create arrays using counters /cubes /numicon to show multiplication sentences. <br> Eg $4 \times 6=24$ <br> Begin to look at arrays in different orientations to make the link between. <br> Eg $5 \times 3=15$ and $3 \times 5=15$ <br> (commutativity) | Draw arrays in different rotations to find commutative multiplication sentences. <br> Link arrays to area of rectangles: | Use an array to write multiplication sentences and reinforce repeated addition. $\begin{aligned} & 5+5+5=15 \\ & 3+3+3+3+3=15 \\ & 5 \times 3=15 \\ & 3 \times 5=15 \end{aligned}$ |





## Division

| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { Yr/ } \\ \text { Stage } \end{array}$ | Strategy/ <br> Method | New Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \underline{\text { Stage }} \\ & \underline{1} \\ & \text { Yr R } \end{aligned}$ | Halving | Half <br> Halve <br> Count out <br> Share out <br> Left <br> Left over <br> ...is the same as <br> Equal |  | One sweet for you, one for me... Is it fair? How many do we each have? |  |
| Stage <br> $\underline{2}$ <br> Yr R <br> Yr 1 | Sharing objects Equally | Share <br> Group <br> Divide <br> Half <br> Halve <br> Count out <br> Share out <br> Left <br> Left over <br> Is the same as Is equal to | I have 10 cubes; can you share them equally into 2 groups? <br> 15 shared between 5 is 3 : | Children use pictures or shapes to share quantities. <br> How many groups of 4 are there in 12 stars? | Share 9 buns between three People: $9 \div 3=3$ |


| $\mathrm{Yr} /$ <br> Stage | Strategy/ <br> Method | New Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \underline{\text { Stage }} \\ & \underline{\mathbf{3}} \\ & \text { Yr } 1 \\ & \text { Yr } 2 \end{aligned}$ | Division as grouping | Equal groups | Divide quantities into equal groups. Use cubes, counters, objects or place value counters to aid understanding. <br> There are 10 sweets. How many people can have 2 <br> sweets each? | Use a number line to show jumps in groups. The number of jumps equals the number of groups. <br> Think of the bar as a whole. Split it into the number of groups you are dividing by and work out how many would be within each group. $20$ $\square$ $20 \div 5=?$ $5 \times ?=20$ | $28 \div 7=4$ <br> Divide 28 into 7 groups. How many are in each group? |
| Stage <br> 4 <br> Yr 2 <br> Yr 3 <br> Yr 4 | Division within arrays | Array Inverse | Link division to multiplication by creating an array and thinking about the number sentences that can be created: $\begin{array}{ll} \operatorname{Eg} 15 \div 3=5 & 5 \times 3=15 \\ 15 \div 5=3 & 3 \times 5=15 \end{array}$ | Draw an array and use lines to split the array into groups to make multiplication and division sentences. | Find the inverse of multiplication and division sentences by creating four linking number sentences. $\begin{aligned} & 7 \times 4=28 \\ & 4 \times 7=28 \\ & 28 \div 7=4 \\ & 28 \div 4=7 \end{aligned}$ |





| $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { Yr/ } \\ & \text { Stage } \end{aligned}$ | Strategy/ <br> Method | New Vocabulary for the Stage | Concrete | Pictorial | Abstract |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stage <br> 7 <br> Yr6 <br> (up to <br> 4 <br> digits <br> by a 2 <br> digit <br> remai <br> nder. <br> Interp <br> ret <br> remai <br> nders <br> as <br> whole <br> numb <br> ers, <br> fractio <br> ns or <br> round <br> ) | Long division |  | It is recommended that instead of using physical counters, students can draw the counters and circle the groups on a whiteboard or in their books. <br> If needed: $71 \div 3=$ <br> Using Base 10 or place value counters, we start with 7 tens and 1 one, to be divided into 3 groups. We can put 2 tens in each group, so we write a 2 in the tens column. In all, we've put 6 tens into the groups ( $3 \times 2$ tens), so we write 6 tens (60) below. <br> We are left with 11 (1 ten and 1 one). We will need to exchange the ten for 10 ones so we can put 3 ones in each group (using 9 ones in all), and we will have a remainder of 2 . | Use this method to explain what is happening and as soon as they have understood what move on to the abstract method as this can be a time consuming process: <br> Eg. $2544 \div 12$ <br> How many groups of 12 thousands do we have? None <br> Exchange 2 thousand for 20 hundreds: <br> How many groups of 12 are in 25 <br> hundreds? 2 groups. Circle them. | $432 \div 15$ becomes <br> 1 <br>  2 8 $r 12$ <br> 4 3 2  <br> 3 0 0  <br> 1 3 2  <br> 1 2 0  <br>  1 2 Answ <br> Answer: 28 remainder 12 <br> $432 \div 15$ becomes <br> 1 <br>  2 8  <br> $\mathbf{4}$ $\mathbf{3}$ $\mathbf{2}$  <br> 3 0 0 $15 \times 20$ <br> 1 3 2  <br> 1 2 0 $15 \times 8$ <br>  1 2  <br>     <br> Answer: $28 \frac{4}{5}$ $\frac{12}{15}=\frac{4}{5}$ |



## Appendix: Additional guidance adapted from 'Calculation guidance' by NCETM, published October 2015.

## Develop children's fluency with basic number facts

Fluency is dependent upon accurate and rapid recall of basic number bonds to 20 and times-tables facts. A short time everyday on these basic facts quickly leads to improved fluency. This can be done using simple whole class chorus chanting. The is not meaningless rote learning; rather, this is an important step to developing conceptual understanding through identifying patterns and relationships between the tables (for example, that the products in the $6 \times$ table are double the products in the $3 \times$ table). This helps children develop a strong sense of number relationships, an important prerequisite for procedural fluency.

Children in Shanghai learn their multiplication tables in this order to provide opportunities to make connections:


At Ashleigh, we expect such facts to be practised for a short time each day.

## Develop children's fluency in mental calculation (The Magic 10)

Efficiency in calculation requires having a variety of mental strategies. In particular the importance of 10 and partitioning numbers to bridge through 10 should be emphasised. For example:
$9+6=9+1+5=10+5=15$.

This is referred to as the "magic 10 ". It is helpful to make a 10 as this makes the calculation easier. Young children benefit from being helped at an early stage to start calculating, rather than relying on 'counting on' as a way of calculating. For example, with a sum such as:

4+ 7=

Rather than starting at 4 and counting on 7 , children could use their knowledge and bridge to 10 to deduce that because $4+6=10$, so $4+7$ must equal 11 .

## Develop children's understanding of the = symbol

The symbol = is an assertion of equivalence. If we write: $3+4=6+1$
then we are saying that what is on the left of the = symbol is necessarily equivalent to what is on the right of the symbol. But many children interpret = as being simply an instruction to evaluate a calculation, as a result of always seeing it used thus:

```
3+4=
5\times7=
16-9 =
```

If children only think of = as meaning "work out the answer to this calculation" then they are likely to get confused by empty box questions such as:
$3+\square=8$

Later they are very likely to struggle with even simple algebraic equations, such as:
$3 y=18$

One way to model equivalence such as $2+3=5$ is to use balance scales.

Chinese textbooks vary the position of the = symbol and include empty box problems from Grade 1 (equivalent to Year 2 in England) to deepen children's understanding of the $=$ symbol.

## Use intelligent practice

Chinese children engage in a significant amount of practice of mathematics through class and homework exercises. However, in designing these exercises, the teacher is advised to avoid mechanical repetition and to create an appropriate path for practising the thinking process with increasing creativity (Gu, 1991). The practice that Chinese children engage in provides the opportunity to develop both procedural and conceptual fluency. Children are required to reason and make connections between calculations. The connections made improve their fluency. For example:

| $2 \times 3=$ | $6 \times 7=$ | $9 \times 8=$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $2 \times 30=$ | $6 \times 70=$ | $9 \times 80=$ |
| $2 \times 300=$ | $6 \times 700=$ | $9 \times 800=$ |
| $20 \times 3=$ | $60 \times 7=$ | $90 \times 8=$ |
| $200 \times 3=$ | $600 \times 7=$ | $900 \times 8=$ |

Shanghai Textbook Grade 2 (aged 718)

## Move between the concrete and the abstract

Children's conceptual understanding and fluency is strengthened if they experience concrete, visual and abstract representations of a concept during a lesson. Moving between the concrete and the abstract helps children to connect abstract symbols with familiar contexts, thus providing the opportunity to make sense of, and develop fluency in the use of, abstract symbols. For example, in a lesson about addition of fractions children could be asked to draw a picture to represent the sum:
$\frac{1}{4}+\frac{1}{8}=\frac{3}{8}$
Alternatively, or in a subsequent lesson, they could be asked to discuss which of three visual images correctly represents the sum, and to explain their reasoning:


## Contextualise the mathematics

## A lesson about addition and subtraction could start with this contextual story:

"There are 11 people on a bus. At the next stop 4 people get on. At the next stop 6 people get off. How many are now on the bus?"

This helps children develop their understanding of the concepts of addition and subtraction. But during the lesson the teacher should keep returning to the story. For example, if the children are thinking about this calculation:

14-8
then the teacher should ask the children:
"What does the 14 mean? What does the 8 mean?", expecting that children will answer: "There were 14 people on the bus, and 8 is the number who got off."

Then asking the children to interpret the meaning of the terms in a sum such as $7+7=14$ will give a good assessment of the depth of their conceptual understanding and their ability to link the concrete and abstract representations of mathematics.

