



Signed by Chair of Governors

Date approved by GovernorsJuly 2010.....

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Trowse Primary School

Calculations Policy

This policy contains the key procedures that are to be taught throughout the school. It has been taken from LEA guidelines and adopted by staff to ensure consistency and progression. It is the core route that most children should be able to follow successfully and with understanding.

Although each method will be taught in the year group specified, children will not be discouraged for using previously taught methods with which they are secure, while the new concepts are becoming embedded. Children of all abilities will be given opportunities to practise, use and apply their calculation strategies in context and with games, investigations and puzzles. Teachers may also introduce other methods for more able pupils to investigate and explore.

It is important to recognise that the ability to calculate mentally lies at the heart of numeracy. Mental calculation is not at the exclusion of written recording and should be seen as complementary to and not as separate from it. In every written method there is an element of mental processing. Written recording both helps children to clarify their thinking and supports and extends the development of more fluent and sophisticated mental strategies.

General Progression:

- Establish mental methods, based on a good understanding of place value.
- Use of informal jottings to aid mental calculations.
- Develop use of empty number line to help mental imagery and aid recording.
- Use partitioning and recombining to aid informal methods.
- Introduce expanded written methods.
- Develop expanded methods into compact standard written form.

Before carrying out a calculation, children will be encouraged to consider:

- Can I do it in my head? (using rounding, adjustment).
- The size of an approximate answer (estimation).
- Do I need jottings to keep track of the calculation?
- Do I need to use an expanded or compact written method?

The long-term aim is for children to be able to select an efficient and effective method of their choice that is appropriate for a given task.