

Specialist Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics – Primary Teaching Assistants

Maths Hub Network
Collaborative Projects 2021/22

NCP21-27

Outline

This project is designed to support primary teaching assistants in developing specialist knowledge for teaching mathematics, thus enabling them to understand, teach and support pupils in maths in the classroom.

A blended mix of online and face to face workshops will begin in the Autumn term of 2021.

Details

Who can take part?

This programme is designed for primary teaching assistants who are supporting maths, and who would like to develop their specialist knowledge for teaching maths. It will be particularly relevant for new TAs or TAs that have not received maths-specific training.

What is involved?

The programme will focus on the following mathematical areas:

- What is effective in the learning and teaching of mathematics?
- Number sense (part 1)
- Number sense (part 2)
- Additive reasoning
- Multiplicative reasoning
- Fractions.

This programme will take place across the equivalent of four days (of blended face-to-face/online workshops) in the academic year, as well as some classroom and school-based activities.

What are the benefits?

Participants will:

- ✓ review their practice as a result of the sessions and make specific adaptations to support the pupils they are working with
- ✓ understand the key elements that form number sense, forms of addition and subtraction, forms of multiplication and division, and forms of fractions, including precise language, structures and representations.

What is the cost?

The SKTM – Primary Teaching Assistants project is **fully funded** by the Maths Hubs Programme so is **free to participating schools**.

*See Terms and Conditions of Booking

Participants who successfully complete the Work Group will be awarded an SKTM Certificate.

Covid-19 Recovery

Many positive lessons were learnt from online collaboration during Maths Hubs activity in 2020/21. These will be built upon in 2021/22.

As the impact of the pandemic hopefully recedes, the result for Maths Hubs work will be a blend of face-to-face activities and frequent online collaboration.



The wider context

It has long been recognised that maths teaching is enhanced when the teachers are confident about the subject matter. Seabourne's work over the period of 2004-06 found that Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) courses led to 'improvements in subject knowledge, attitude, understanding and confidence'. Gibson, O'Toole, Dennison & Oliver's (2013) report on SKE courses across all subjects in which SKE is offered finds that levels of subject knowledge and confidence in the subject are dramatically enhanced on completion of SKE courses.

Maths Hubs work with a range of partners to ensure there is effective professional development of new teachers of maths in primary and secondary schools (and other maths classroom practitioners), so that they have the specialist knowledge required to support the learning of maths. This project is offered to impact on developing the subject knowledge and pedagogical knowledge for all practitioners teaching and supporting the learning of maths.

Expectations of participants and their schools

Schools must be able to commit to the full academic year's programme, with senior leadership releasing the same nominated teaching assistants for a blended mix of the equivalent of four days of face-to-face/online workshops and to support them in completing the gap tasks and wider staff engagement, between each workshop.

About the Hub

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[Boolean Maths Hub](#) works with schools & colleges to support the continuous improvement of mathematics education for all students in the following local authority districts: Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Somerset. The Maths Hubs Programme is funded by the DfE and coordinated by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.

Information for the Headteacher/Principal – *Terms and Conditions of Booking

Schools must be able to commit to the full academic year's programme. This includes attendance and active participation in the blended mix of the equivalent of four days of face-to-face/online workshops across the academic year, as well as some classroom and school-based activities. School leadership must support participants to attend all workshops and, unless there are exceptional circumstances, non-attendance and/or Work Group tasks not being completed may result in a charge to the school of £100.

What is a Work Group? [Click here to find out](#)

Work Group locations/dates

This Work Group will start in the autumn term. (Dates to be confirmed)

To book your place on this Work Group follow the link [HERE](#)

For further information please email booleanmathshub@clf.cabot.ac.uk