Maths Hubs Network Collaborative Projects 2019/20

# Mixed age planning in the context of teaching for mastery

Primary teaching for mastery focused issue

Work Group Information Sheet

NCP 19-14

## Overview

The project will involve the trialling and reviewing of a range of approaches to deal with the issue of planning for mixed age classes in a mastery context. Participants will explore current work and case studies from the innovation Work Groups which have previously looked at this issue.

Teachers will be able to engage with the approaches in their own schools and evaluate the impact on pupils. The Primary Mastery Professional Development Materials will underpin the work and provide a structure for planning.

### Who is this for?

Schools that have mixed age classes are invited to nominate two teachers for the Work Group. Where possible, one of the teachers attending the Work Group should be in a middle or senior leadership role (ideally the Maths Lead).

**Please note** that this Work Group will run in conjunction with a **Primary Teaching for Mastery Development Work Group** and schools should enrol in both. The two Work Groups will support the development of teaching for mastery in schools with mixed-aged classes. There is some flexibility for small schools who do not feel they have the capacity to engage in both Work Groups simultaneously and this should be discussed with their Maths Hub.

### What is involved?

The project will involve the trialling and reviewing of a range of approaches to deal with the issue of planning for mixed age classes in a mastery context. It will present current work and case studies from the innovation work already carried out. Work Group Leads will support participants in engaging with the approaches in their own schools and evaluating the impact on pupils.

Participants will be able to explore a range of models for addressing mixed age teaching in maths, including:

- Restructuring lesson time to allow for separate input to different year groups
- Restructuring staffing and timetables so pupils can be grouped by age for maths lessons
- Planning to meet the needs of learners from different year groups when it is not possible or practical to group pupils according to their age (e.g. in very small schools where more than two year groups are mixed).

## Intended Outcomes

Participants will deepen their understanding of teaching for mastery and be able to use different models to deliver a mastery curriculum within a mixed age setting. They will also develop and begin to implement a coherent policy appropriate to the setting, to support teachers in designing and teaching lessons to meet the needs of learners from mixed age groups.

# Mixed age planning: primary teaching for mastery focused issue

## The wider context

The Maths Hubs Network, across England, works on national projects by running local collaborative Work Groups of teachers around national maths education priority areas. One such priority is to embed maths teaching for mastery across primary schools. In adopting teaching for mastery, schools have embedded whole class teaching as a method of delivery. This project allows close examination of how to overcome the challenges of this in mixed age classes.

Work Groups use a common evaluation process, which collectively provides a body of evidence on the project's outcomes. Your participation in this Work Group will contribute to your own professional learning, and that of your colleagues, as well as contributing to the improvement of maths education at a national level.

## Expectations of participants and their schools

Participants will attend three face-to-face days with the Work Group Lead and participants from other schools.

Gap tasks will be set with focus questions to support reflections which are then discussed at the following meeting.

Participant schools will contribute to case studies based on their reflective journals on the success of particular models or the combination of approaches used.

## Funding

There is no cost to schools for this work group and all sessions and resources are free of charge.

## Who is leading the Work Group?

Lisa Strange – Staveley Primary School

## If you're interested, what next?

Please email NNWmathshub@queenkatherine.org to register your interest