

MATHEMATICS (NCCA) · ALL CLASSES

Matamaitic na Bunscoile

Irish Primary Mathematics Curriculum

The new Primary Mathematics Curriculum (2024)

1

Implementation

The new Primary Mathematics Curriculum began implementation from 2024/2025. Schools had the 2023/2024 year to familiarise themselves. Replaces the 1999 curriculum.

2

Five strands

1. Number; 2. Algebra; 3. Shape and Space; 4. Measures; 5. Data. The five strands are the same as the previous curriculum but with more emphasis on connections between them.

3

Mathematical talk

The new curriculum places strong emphasis on children talking about mathematics — explaining reasoning, using precise mathematical language, and discussing strategies.

4

Problem-solving emphasis

More emphasis on open-ended problems and investigation than on procedural calculation alone. Children are expected to explain their thinking, not just provide answers.

5

Gaeilge integration

Mathematical vocabulary in Irish is explicitly encouraged — using Irish in maths lessons supports both the language curriculum and the maths curriculum. See our Gaeilge Mata vocabulary mat.

6

Concrete-pictorial-abstract

The new curriculum embeds the CPA approach — concrete manipulation before pictorial representation before abstract notation. This is aligned with international best practice.



7

Aistear connections

In Infant Classes, mathematics is connected to Aistear — mathematical concepts are explored through play, story, and investigation rather than formal lessons.

