

The Problem-solving Schools' Checklist

Welcome to Problem-solving Schools! We're all excited to help the next generation of problem-solvers together. To help you track your progress, we will ask you to complete this self-assessment form a couple of times a year. Use the key below to rate where you currently are, and identify the areas that need the most improvement.

Beginning	Needs developing
Developing	Currently developing
Embedding	Implemented

Values and ethos

We have a shared belief that:

Mathematical ability is not fixed: everyone can learn and make progress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problem-solving often involves taking wrong turns and making mistakes: every learner has the right to struggle and the right to enjoy success	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Everyone should have the opportunity to develop the skills and attitudes necessary to become confident problem-solvers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Problem-solving can motivate learners to learn new mathematics, apply previous learning and make mathematical connections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Leadership and professional development

In our setting:

Our staff promote positive attitudes towards problem-solving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time is set aside to discuss problem-solving in our meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our displays, newsletters, website, and social media content celebrate problem-solving for all	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our monitoring system ensures that priority is given to problem-solving and mathematical thinking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We engage with printed, online and face-to-face professional development opportunities offered by subject organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Curriculum, pedagogy and assessment

We are committed to:

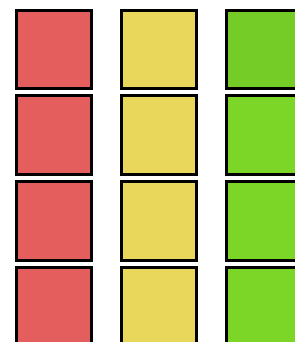
Regularly embedding non-standard problem-solving opportunities in our maths curriculum for all
Ensuring that problems, and classroom support, offer opportunities for all to experience both struggle and success
Allocating time to developing key problem-solving skills and positive attitudes
Including non-standard problems in our internal/formative assessments
Liaising with other subjects so that meaningful cross-curricular links can be made



Classroom culture

We aim to:

Create a safe environment in which learners explore, take risks, and appreciate the value of learning from their mistakes
Celebrate multiple approaches to solving problems and discuss the merits of the different strategies offered
Provide frequent opportunities for individual and collaborative problem-solving, where learners are given both thinking time, and opportunities to share ideas and insights
Celebrate the mathematical thinking of every learner



Problem-solving beyond the classroom/school

We encourage:

Learners to engage with school Maths Club(s) and high quality maths books, ideally stocked by the school library
Learners to take advantage of printed, online and off-site mathematical enrichment opportunities
Parents and carers to engage with problem-solving through family homeworks and in-school events, while recognising that not every adult has had a positive experience of maths
Learners to appreciate, and learn more about, the achievements of a diverse range of mathematicians

