

The Singapore method of teaching mathematics develops pupils' mathematical ability and confidence without having to resort to memorising procedures to pass tests - making mathematics more engaging and interesting. The emphasis is always placed on problem solving.

Independent learning and 'investigations' are important but not before the children have grasped a mathematical concept. Vocabulary and language don't become the end point of a child's learning, Singapore maths focuses on comprehension rather than rote learning.

A teaching approach is adopted in which each subject or skill area is revisited in intervals at a more sophisticated level each time, material is presented in a logical sequence. Initially it is enacted with concrete materials, later it is represented by models and then by abstract notation.

A lesson is varied through a series of examples that deal with the same problem or topic. Sometimes the learning of one particular mathematical concept is varied and sometimes the mathematical concept is the same, but the students are presented with different ways to perceive a problem. The Singapore maths books present this in a systematic way to ensure students comprehend what they are learning. At William Alvey we present this to the children through a series of problems at a bronze, silver and gold level. The same concept but at a progressively more complex level.

Singapore maths is based on a mastery curriculum. Differentiation occurs in the support and intervention provided to different pupils rather than in the topics taught. This ensures there is no cap to the children's learning and every day all the children have a chance to succeed.