

SOMERVILLE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL POLICY ON MATHEMATICS

RATIONALE:

Mathematics education aims to contribute to the development of a broad range of numeracy, problem solving, decision making, communication and social and co-operative skills essential in life.

Charter Reference: Curriculum Goal

Legislative Reference: NEG 3 & 5
NAG 1

PURPOSES:

- To provide opportunities for all students to develop mathematics skills through regular participation in class, group and individual practical activities.
- To enable equal opportunity in mathematics by actively encouraging all students. Both girls and boys need to be shown that mathematics is critical in tomorrow's job choices.
- To encourage positive attitudes to mathematics.
- To provide opportunities for students to see and experience mathematics being used in every day life.
- To help students develop a belief in the value of mathematics and its usefulness to them, to nurture confidence in their own mathematical ability, to foster a sense of personal achievement and to encourage a continuing and creative interest in mathematics.
- To help students develop a variety of approaches to solving problems involving mathematics and to develop the ability to think and reason logically.
- To foster and develop mathematical talent.

GUIDELINES:

- Mathematics should be taught daily.
- On-going appropriate evaluation and assessment will enable teachers to prepare programmes of work that cater for the individual needs of students.
- A balanced programme will be planned to include:
 - new learning
 - practice of skills
 - verbalisation of concepts
 - systematic programme of maintenance
 - application of concepts to practical activities
 - problem solving opportunities
 - investigations
 - mental mathematics (Headwork)

- Flexible grouping (to ensure children meet success) will be based on:
 - stage of development
 - ability
 - rate of learning
 - style of learning
- Students must see a personal relevance for mathematics, using student related problems and focusing on the student's interests.
- Mastering of basic facts is an important requirement for success in mathematics.
- Calculators will be used to check estimates and provide calculations beyond the student's capacity. Computer software will be used to enhance and extend learning.
- Setting out in mathematics books will be taught and monitored regularly.
- Appropriate mathematics homework that consolidates taught work will be set regularly.
- Extension for students with special abilities will be achieved through involvement in Mathex challenges and withdrawal groups.
- Students with special needs will be supported within the class through grouping or remedial help on an individual basis and withdrawal groups.
- A resource person (and/or committee) will administer the budget, oversee the purchase and maintenance of resources, supervise storage and distribution to classes.

DATE:	Written	Adopted	Latest Amendment	Readopted
	29/7/97	24/9/98	18/3/02	19/5/05