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Assessment for Learning in Mathematics

Abstract
Assessment for Learning is an important tool for increasing pupil achievement in mathematics. The presentation will reflect on research in this area and provide some practical examples of how assessment for learning approaches are being implemented by teachers in Scottish classrooms.

This presentation will outline how teachers of mathematics can agree learning intentions with their students and how this can help children to achieve a deep understanding of their learning in mathematics and allow them to apply their learning to challenging problems.

Learning objectives and success criteria that are shared and discussed with children begin to give them language to discuss their learning. It allows them to understand where they have completed the work well and where they are having difficulty. This allows children to begin to take charge of their learning journeys, to understand what they can do and to plan an appropriate course forward.

The session will also look at how teachers can ask students questions or set challenging activities that allow for extended thinking. Examples will be provided of how teachers of mathematics ask questions that encourage children to explore and make connections with their previous learning, give time for answers to be reflected on, and allow students the opportunity to try out their answers in pairs or small groups before presenting them to the rest of the class.

The session will also highlight the importance of feedback to students in letting children know what they have done well as well as giving them clear information about how they can improve their learning in mathematics.