

Abacus

FAQs

Pearson

Abacus

Frequently asked questions

If you have a question, please check to see whether it has been answered in these Frequently Asked Questions. If you cannot find the answer to your question here, please get in touch with our Customer Success team by email ukschools.customersuccess@pearson.com or phone us on 08453138888.

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About Abacus

What is Abacus?

'Freedom when you want it. Structure where you choose it.'

Abacus is a maths programme for primary schools. It has been built by a team of expert authors and teachers (Ruth Merttens, Hilda Merttens, Jennie Kerwin and Jon Kurta) to inspire a genuine love of maths in children, and help them to master mathematical concepts. It is accessed online through Pearson's Active Learn Primary platform.

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It contains:

- A flexible toolkit that puts you in control, with more than 10,000 resources, activities, plans and assessment tools
- An online world filled with lively and exciting maths games and rewards that your digital-savvy kids will love
- Beautifully designed and supportive textbooks and workbooks for independent practice
- Progress and Assess tests (including end-of-year ests) and clever assessment tools to track children's attainment and their progress towards Age Related Expectations.

Who is Abacus for?

Abacus covers Reception to Year 6.

What does Abacus include?

A subscription to Abacus includes:

- Access to 1000s of resources, many of which can be allocated to pupils
- Access to the planning area for Long-term, Medium-term, Weekly and Daily lesson plans. All of these can be downloaded as Word Documents so that you can adapt them for your class
- Teacher access to activity reporting, to help you keep track of pupils' work.

The following components are available to purchase separately:

- Workbooks for KS1 and textbooks for KS2
- Assessment tests
- Mastery Checkpoint workbooks.

How do I know it will work?

In a survey run by Pearson,75% of teachers reported that Abacus contributes very significantly or significantly to children's attainment, progress according to their age, and confidence in maths.

We have built Abacus on a robust skills progression that outlines what skills children need to acquire and when. We have built prerequisites for learning into every piece of Abacus teaching, which means that if children struggle with specific concepts, we give suggestions of the mathematical building blocks that might impede their understanding. This means you can support children to master key maths topics and access Age Related Expectations.

Read some case studies of schools who use Abacus.

Does Abacus cover the National Curriculum?

Abacus offers full coverage of the National Curriculum for England for Reception to

Year 6. Matching charts show you when the National Curriculum objectives are taught in Abacus.

Abacus also fully covers the Curriculum requirements for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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Is Abacus suitable for home learning?

Abacus is ideal for home learning. It is a fully digital programme, accessed by our Active Learn primary website. Teachers can allocate a variety of resources to pupils, including interactive games, videos, homework sheets and practice powerpoints. Pupils access these via an individualised, self-contained and safe Pupil World, where they can earn coins to 'spend' in their My Rewards section.

How does Abacus sit alongside East Asian maths programmes?

While East Asian/Singaporean programmes teach maths in blocks, and are centred primarily around a textbook, Abacus is structured around a spiral curriculum. This means that the units of learning are small, so children can grasp them before moving on. Once taught, central concepts such as place value, and key skills such as partitioning and recognising complements to 1, 10, 100, need to be rehearsed. Abacus is built on a robust skills progression, so that prior knowledge is constantly built on, reinforced and embedded. This ensures children develop a deep understanding and have the opportunity to apply their learning to different mathematical concepts.

Does Abacus deliver Mastery?

Abacus supports teachers with teaching for Mastery. It is built on proven approaches and written by experienced teachers to ensure children master the curriculum and achieve a deep and lasting understanding of maths. It is not an Asia-inspired maths programme, but it combines printed materials with digital resources to provide both teachers and children with an interactive and engaging toolkit of resources - proven to inspire a love of maths. Find out more about how Abacus delivers Mastery on our website.

What extension resources are available in Abacus for high achievers?

There are lots of resources in Abacus that you can use to extend pupil learning. Most teaching weeks contain a problem-solving lesson - this is a lesson with a short, snappy teaching element to maximise the time for exploration or problem solving. There are also a number of resources that can be used for extension, and which can be allocated to pupils at home.

- **Individual Practice Games** are interactive and can be used by pupils individually or in pairs. These will stimulate and challenge children to apply their knowledge to solve contextural problems. They have three attainment levels - Support, Core and Extend.
- **Problem Solving Investigations** for Years 1 to 6 are provided as Word documents so you can tailor them for your pupils
- We have also worked with **NRICH** to provide links to their resources. These rich, mathematical tasks are a great 'next step' for developing a deep understanding of mathematical concepts before moving children on.

How do I buy the printed books?

If you would like to purchase printed versions of the books, please contact our friendly Customer Success team by emailing ukschools.customersuccess@pearson.com or phone us on 08453138888. You can also browse the available books on our website and order from there.

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Using Abacus

How do I get started with Abacus?

To set up your teacher and pupil accounts on ActiveLearn Primary, please take a look at our ActiveLearn Primary Getting Started Guide, which includes links to our helpful how-to videos.

For help getting started with Abacus, please see the Abacus Getting Started Guide.

How do I know which resources are right for my pupils?

A good place to find suitable resources for your needs is the Resources area. Use the filters on the left-hand side of the screen to find one or more suitable resources you would like to allocate. The filters allow you to search by Year, Abacus strand and objective, Category (eg. Problem-solving and reasoning and Interactive game/activity), Abacus Resource eg. Mastery Checkpoint, Problem Solving Game, Fluency Fitness). A list of resources that fit your search will appear.

You will also find links to resources in the area for each Week, and in Daily Lesson plans. These suggested resources are relevant to the teaching of that week or lesson.

Can I see how my pupils are performing?

The Individual Practice Games are linked to the reporting system in Abacus. Watch this video about how to use the Reporting.

How do I assess my pupils' progress?

Abacus includes half-termly assessment tests for Arithmetic and Problem-Solving and Reasoning for Years 2 to 6. For Year 1 there is one combined Progress Check. You can find all the Assessment tests, guides and a Progression Map in the Assessment area. There are also printed End of Year tests.

There are other great resources that you can use to check pupils' understanding. The following are all allocatable:

- Quick Maths Activities in KS2, culminating in a weekly 'Driving Test'
- Graded Practice
- Fluency Fitness
- Mastery Checkpoints.

Is Abacus accessible to pupils with disabilities?

Pearson prides itself on making learning and education accessible to all learners. Should you require an alternative version of a Pearson UK product, simply visit this page to determine how to make your request: Alternative formats

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Technical help

Will the software work on iPad / tablets?

The resources are suitable for use on an iPad and on most tablets.

However, Quick Maths Activities and Driving Tests are Flash format only.

Will the software work on mobile phones?

We do not recommend using the software on a mobile phone, as it will not display properly on a small screen.

How do I get technical support?

If you need technical support, please visit our support website at https://support.pearson.com/uk/s/.

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