

Fully funded Potential EEF trial

# Mastering Number at Reception and KS1

## Supporting pupils to develop good number sense

A national programme now in its fifth year

### What is involved?

This programme focuses on the key knowledge and understanding needed in Reception, and progression through KS1. Lead teachers in participating schools will receive training and will be part of an online community, to share practice and engage in critical reflection. Teaching materials will be provided for four short sessions each week, aimed at developing children's fluency and flexibility with number.

### Who can take part?

Lead participants from Work Group schools will be three teachers – one each from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – known as Lead Teachers. Some support will also be given to subject leaders and headteachers. Where appropriate, Lead Teachers are expected to support the other teachers in their year group.

This programme and its Work Groups are open to all schools that have not yet engaged with the Mastering Number Programme.



### Find out more

Search **mastering number at reception and KS1** online or visit:  
[ncetm.org.uk/mastering-number/reception-ks1](https://ncetm.org.uk/mastering-number/reception-ks1)

Some hubs in the network are offering this programme as part of an EEF trial in 2025/26. Your hub has been chosen to be part of the trial. For more information, see the **School Information Sheet** on the following pages.

## Programme benefits

- Your pupils will develop and demonstrate good number sense
- You will develop teaching strategies to help **all** children build firm mathematical foundations

The **Work Groups** are fully funded by the Maths Hubs Programme, so are **free** to participating schools.

## Trial benefits

- Over half of the schools in England have participated in an EEF trial
- Participating schools, working with their local Maths Hub, will be contributing to the evidence base for teaching approaches aiming to address children's early mathematics development



# School Information Sheet for the Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 (Reception focus) potential EEF Trial 2025/26

## Overview

The National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) is working towards partnering with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to evaluate the Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 programme in the 2025/2026 academic year.

This is an exciting potential opportunity for your school to engage with a highly regarded programme that aims to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense for all children from Reception through to Year 1 and Year 2. The aim over time is that children will leave KS1 with fluency in calculation and a confidence and flexibility with number. Attention will be given to key knowledge and understanding needed in Reception classes, and progression through KS1 to support success in the future.

Pending EEF Grants Committee sign off, the trial will assess the impact of Mastering Number on **Reception pupils and their teachers**.

## What does the programme involve?

Schools joining the Mastering Number programme will use the teaching materials in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes for four short sessions each week, aimed at developing children's fluency and flexibility with number. Schools will receive rekenreks for use in the sessions.

In Reception, Mastering Number should be the main maths lesson for number based work but in KS1 it is a short extra session for the whole class in addition to the main lesson. Suggestions for small group intervention work are provided in the weekly teacher guides, and these can be used by teachers or teaching assistants with pupils at risk of under achievement. In Reception classes, teachers also incorporate Mastering Number into the class's continuous provision and routines.

A Lead Teacher from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive one training session per term from NCETM through national online events. Schools also receive local support from a Maths Hub in the form of online or in-person events. Where appropriate, Lead Teachers are expected to support the other teachers in their year group and will contribute to an online community to share practice and engage in critical reflection.

To support implementation, the NCETM team offer two online workshops for Headteachers.

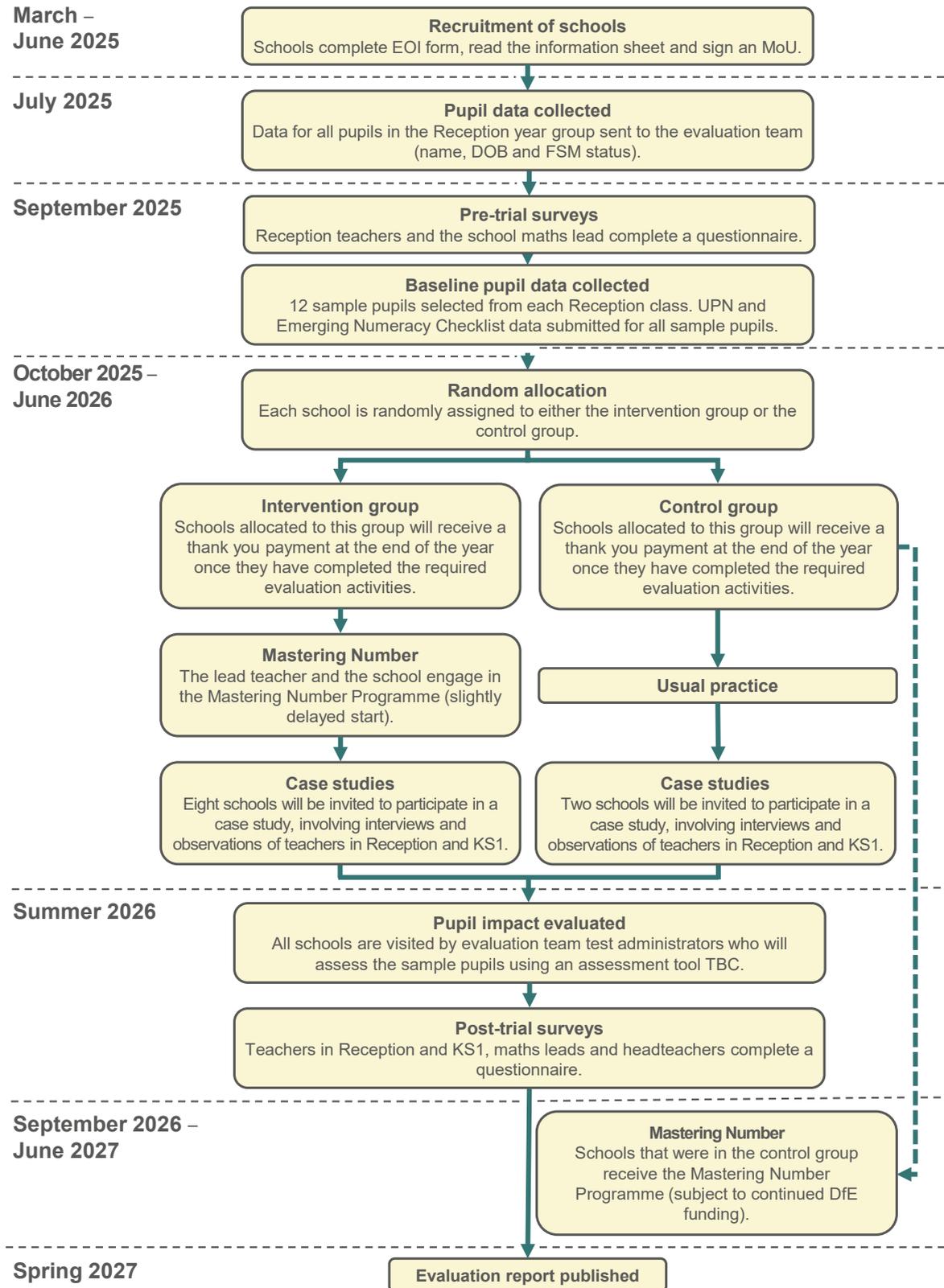
## How will the potential trial work? What are the timelines?

The purpose of the trial will be to evaluate the effectiveness of the Mastering Number programme in Reception. If approved, it will examine the impact of the programme on Reception pupils' fluency and flexibility with number.

If approved, the timeline will look as follows:



Timeline



## Eligibility

To participate, schools must meet the following criteria:

- The school must be a state-funded primary or infant school within a participating Maths Hub region in England
- The school must not have previously engaged with Mastering Number training and delivery
- The school must not be involved in other EEF-funded Reception or Early Maths trials in 2025/26.
- None of the school's Reception teachers will have previously been the Lead Teacher in Reception for the Mastering Number Programme in any school.

## What are the benefits of participating?

Over half of the schools in England have participated in an EEF trial. Participating schools, working with their local Maths Hub, will be contributing to the evidence base for teaching approaches aiming to address children's early mathematics development.

The Mastering Number programme aims to improve teachers' understanding of progression in early number, and how to teach it. As a result of accessing four Mastering Number lessons per week, Reception pupils' fluency and flexibility with number improves, as does their willingness and ability to talk about mathematical relationships. Pupils are more confident and competent, and Reception pupils are mathematically well prepared for Year 1.

## Are there any costs involved?

The programme is fully funded by the DfE through the Maths Hubs Programme. Schools will need to ensure that there is staff cover for a Lead Teacher from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to attend the equivalent of 3 days of training.

### Interested in participating?

Search **mastering number at reception and KS1** online or visit:  
[ncetm.org.uk/mastering-number/reception-ks1](https://ncetm.org.uk/mastering-number/reception-ks1)

Find your hub: [ncetm.org.uk/maths-hubs/find-your-hub](https://ncetm.org.uk/maths-hubs/find-your-hub)

Ask a question: [mathshubs@ncetm.org.uk](mailto:mathshubs@ncetm.org.uk)

Express your interest: [EOI form](#)