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## Implementation and Sustainability of Mastering Number at Reception and KS1: School Information Sheet

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### 1 Why am I receiving this information sheet?

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out an evaluation of Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 (Reception focus), delivered by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) and Maths Hubs. As part of the evaluation, we will explore to what extent schools that have previously been trained in Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 are continuing to use and embed Mastering Number into their practice. This strand of the evaluation involves an online survey of Reception and Key Stage 1 class teachers, maths leads and senior leaders in schools that have previously been trained in Mastering Number within a sample of 15 Maths Hubs (who are involved in the evaluation), and visits/interviews with staff in six sampled schools.

This project with schools that have previously been trained in Mastering Number is part of a wider evaluation being conducted by NFER exploring the effectiveness of the Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 programme, including its impact on pupils' early numeracy. This information sheet is for schools who have previously been trained in Mastering Number and have been invited to participate in this project by the NCETM and/or their Maths Hub.

### 2 What are the aims of the project?

The Mastering Number programme, developed by the NCETM and funded by the Department for Education (DfE), is an approach to teaching mathematics focusing on key knowledge and understanding needed in Reception and Key Stage 1. The programme 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 programme provides training to participating teachers and access to lesson resources to support delivery to pupils in the first year of delivery. In the second year, support to embed the programme within schools is provided by local Maths Hubs through the Mastering Number Embedding the Impact Community.

This project aims to understand the experiences of early adopters of the Mastering Number programme. We will explore to what extent schools that have previously been trained in Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 are continuing to use and embed Mastering Number into their practice. Findings from this project about existing delivery at scale, alongside findings from the wider

evaluation involving schools new to delivering Mastering Number, will help to inform recommendations about the continued nationwide rollout of Mastering Number.

### 3 Who is conducting the project?

The research is being undertaken by NFER, which is the leading provider of independent educational evidence and assessments in the UK. As a registered charity, our mission is to improve outcomes for future generations everywhere and to support positive change across education systems. The project is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). Designed by the NCETM and funded by the DfE, Mastering Number is delivered nationally by the NCETM and locally by accredited local leaders of mathematics education, through Maths Hubs.

### 4 Who can participate in this project?

To participate, schools must meet the following criteria:

- Received Mastering Number training in or before the 2024-25 academic year
- Are in the catchment area for one of the [15 Maths Hubs](#) participating in the evaluation

Schools meeting these criteria will be invited by the NCETM and/or their local Maths Hub to participate in this project.

### 5 What will this project involve?

This project will involve the activities described below:

#### **Online survey**

An online survey of Reception and KS1 teachers, maths leads and senior leaders in schools who have previously been trained in Mastering Number will be administered in February and March 2026. The NCETM and/or the 15 local [Maths Hubs](#) (who are involved in the wider evaluation and who hold contact information for schools who have previously received Mastering Number training) will distribute the survey on behalf of NFER. The survey will be sent to Headteachers, who will be asked to distribute the survey to at least two members of staff who are best placed to comment on the Mastering Number training and implementation of the programme within their school, including any involvement in the Embedding the Impact Community. We suggest Headteachers share the survey with Reception and/or KS1 Lead Teachers and the maths leads who initially received the Mastering Number training. If any of these members of staff are no longer in the school, we suggest the Headteacher or another senior leader who can reflect on implementation of Mastering Number in their school respond to the survey. Other Reception and/or KS1 class teachers who have experience delivering the Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 programme may also complete the survey.

The survey will take around 15 minutes to complete and will explore respondents' experiences of implementing Mastering Number in their school, including: extent of current/continued use, engagement with the Embedding the Impact Community, cascading of the training within school, embedding the programme and associated support and barriers, perceptions of the impact of Mastering Number for pupils, teachers, and maths teaching and learning in school more widely.

### **Visits/interviews**

The survey will ask respondents to indicate if they and colleagues in their school would be willing to participate in a visit/interviews to share more detail on their experiences of implementing and sustaining Mastering Number within their school. NFER will sample up to six schools from willing survey respondents for this additional activity. In participating schools, NFER will interview up to three of the following staff members: Headteacher/other senior leader, maths lead, a Lead Teacher (i.e., a teacher who initially received Mastering Number training) from Reception or KS1 if they are still in the school, or another Reception or KS1 class teacher who has experience delivering Mastering Number. Interviews may be conducted in-person (in cases where schools are willing to host a visit) or online via Microsoft Teams (in cases where schools would prefer to engage virtually). Visits may also involve an observation of a Mastering Number session in Reception. The visit/interviews will explore in further detail: the extent of Mastering Number use; how Mastering Number has been cascaded and embedded; and perceptions of this cascading model and its effectiveness.

## **6 What are the benefits of participating in this project?**

By participating in this project, your school will help us understand how schools continue to implement the Mastering Number programme, how training is cascaded and the challenges and enabling factors for sustainability. We would like to hear your views, however much or little you have continued to use Mastering Number in your school. 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.

As a thank you for taking part in this project, the first two members of staff per school who submit a completed survey response will receive a £10 voucher. Schools that participate in the visits/interviews will receive a £100 voucher.

## **7 How will NFER use and protect the data collected?**

The results of the wider evaluation and findings from the schools who have previously been trained in Mastering Number will be shared in a final published report which will be made available on the EEF website.

All survey and interview responses will be reported anonymously – no individuals or schools will be identified in the reporting.



Full details of how your personal data will be collected, stored and used can be found in the privacy notice for established schools, available on the project webpage [here](#).

## 8 Who can I contact?

For any further questions about this evaluation, please contact the project team at: [masteringnumber@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:masteringnumber@nfer.ac.uk).