Raising Achievement
Oxford School Improvement
Expert Events

Professor Mike Askew
Teaching for Big Ideas in Mathematics

As part of Oxford School Improvement, Oxford Primary is delighted to be working with the internationally renowned Primary Mathematics expert Mike Askew. Working with LAs and schools to organise regional Professional Development sessions, Oxford University Press will sponsor the speaker costs to deliver Mike’s sessions FREE to Head Teachers, SLTs and subject leaders of Primary schools.

Event Details

Duration: Full Day

Session 1: What are Big Ideas and why are they important?
Session 2: What are some Big Ideas in primary mathematics?
Session 3: Planning and teaching mathematics with a focus on Big Ideas

More Information

For more free Professional Development support please go to: https://global.oup.com/education/content/primary/series/professional-development.

Booking a Session

If you would like to find out more about organising an event with Mike Askew sponsored by Oxford University Press, please contact your local Primary Educational Maths Consultant.
Session 1: 1 hour 20 min: What are Big Ideas and why are they important?
For an idea to be 'Big' it must have currency across all the years of primary schooling. This is important because it means children get to revisit Big Ideas across the year groups. The ideas then grow and develop, while there is a core of familiarity on which to build. This means that all children in a class can be engaged in thinking about a Big Idea at different developmental levels; working with Big Ideas is a means of dealing with classroom diversity and promoting inclusive communities.

Session 2: 1 hour 30 min: What are some Big Ideas in mathematics?
In this part of the workshop, we will examine the nature and content of several big ideas, including:

• Meanings and symbols: The same symbols or number sentence can be used to model different realistic situations and different symbols or number sentences can be used to model the same realistic situation.
• Equivalence: There are infinitely many ways to represent numbers, measures and number sentences.
• Classification: Mathematical objects - numbers and shapes - can be described, compared, classified, and analysed by their properties.

Session 3: 1 hour 15 min: Planning and teaching mathematics with a focus on Big Ideas.
Taking a particular Big Idea as an example, in this final session we will look at practical suggestions for long- and short-term planning with a focus on that 'Big Idea' and how this can be embedded throughout teaching.