

- **What is Singapore Maths?**

There is no such thing as Singapore Maths in Singapore. What has come to be known as Singapore Maths is the Singapore approach to teaching and learning maths which is recognised globally as one of the most impactful ways to teach and learn maths. Singapore's students have consistently been top performers in international assessments, such as Trends in International Mathematics and Science Studies (TIMSS) and OECD Performance for International Student Assessment (PISA). This approach is integral to *Inspire Maths*, a whole-school primary maths programme based on the series *My Pals are Here!*, which is used by 100% of Singapore's state primary schools.

- **What is it that Singapore does so well?**

Singapore's high performance internationally is attributed to numerous factors including high quality textbooks combined with high quality, sustained teacher professional development. The Ministry of Education in Singapore introduced textbooks to primary schools in 1985 and these have been rigorously developed over decades of research. The Singapore approach to teaching maths is based on the learning theories of Bruner, Dienes and Skemp. The pupil textbooks, for example, draw on Bruner's Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach to develop secure foundations that lead to a deep understanding of mathematical concepts.

- **How does the Singapore approach work in the classroom?**

Lessons in Singapore involve teaching the whole class together. Teachers introduce a new concept or skill in the first part of the lesson; this involves lots of mathematical discussion supported by concrete and visual representations on the whiteboard. This is followed by guided practice where pupils work collaboratively to solve problems. Pupils are encouraged to use concrete apparatus and share ideas as they work in groups. This is followed by individual practice to develop fluency and build confidence.

- **Is Inspire Maths from Singapore?**

Inspire Maths is the only series in the UK based on the leading Singapore Maths series *My Pals are Here!* which has almost 30 years of efficacy in Singapore primary schools. As it is a proven high quality textbook programme which is attributed to student achievement, this was the most appropriate series to adapt for the UK. The UK edition of *My Pals are Here!*, *Inspire Maths* has been developed with leading educational experts in the UK and supported by face-to-face professional development. It has been selected by the Department for Education and NCETM for the national textbook research project.

- **How does Inspire Maths fit with the new National Curriculum?**

Inspire Maths has been correlated to the National Curriculum. Curriculum matching charts are available on our school improvement website Oxford Owl, with suggestions for additional activities to ensure complete coverage of the National Curriculum. To view the charts, sign up to Oxford Owl at www.oxfordowl.co.uk

- **How does this UK edition differ from My Pals are Here!?**

Inspire Maths follows the same progression and structure as the original series *My Pals are Here!* We have made changes to the contexts and names so they are familiar to UK children and changed the currency. To support teachers using the published resources, we have also provided wraparound resources online on Oxford Owl. This collection will continue to grow as we work alongside schools using *Inspire Maths*.

- **How will the Singapore approach transfer to the UK?**

The textbook series was written to support non-specialist maths teachers to deliver it; the pupil textbooks and practice books are highly structured with explicit visual representations and precise mathematical language that will support pupils to become confident mathematicians. UK teachers are already familiar with the CPA approach, which underpins *Inspire Maths* – for example there are 10,000 schools using Numicon successfully to support and deepen children's mathematical understanding. The *Inspire Maths* programme offers professional development to develop teachers' mathematical subject knowledge, develop pedagogical understanding of the approach so the textbooks can be used effectively and support schools leaders and teachers in planning for effective implementation and delivery.

- **There are so many cultural and institutional differences between Singapore and the UK. How will Singapore methods work here?**

The cultural and institutional differences with Singapore do not mean that children in the UK cannot do as well. The Singapore Maths approach is not beyond any teacher. The approach has a theoretical foundation in learning, such as concrete-pictorial-abstract that can work successfully in any country. *My Pals are Here!*, the series on which *Inspire Maths* is built, has been successfully adapted for use in the USA, South Africa, The United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands.