

Upper 3 use their hands and feet in Maths



The national curriculum for mathematics places emphasis on mathematics concepts and skills taught using authentic, real-life problems rather than through a sequence of procedures. At Gateways, we encourage pupils in mathematics to work cooperatively, think critically and solve problems - all while understanding that there is a variety of ways to arrive at solutions.

This week, some of the Upper 3 pupils estimated areas of irregular shapes. As part of the lesson activities, pupils worked in groups to draw the outline of each person's hand and foot on centimetre squared paper. They then estimated the area of each hand and foot. Every pupil participated fully and enjoyed this simple activity working cooperatively in getting the required information on paper then independently to estimate the areas.

During the same lesson, pupils also carried out mini research on a famous polygonal building in America. They found this to be a 5-sided building called the 'Pentagon', headquarters of the USA defence department and one of the biggest office buildings in the world, housing over 30,000 staff. Other interesting findings included its perimeter, which is about 1.4 kilometres long, and its area, which covers 600,000m². Inside, the lengths of its corridors total 28.2 kilometres! It was impressive to see how quickly Upper 3 pupils were able to seek out relevant information from academic sources. This is a skill that will stand them in good stead in life and throughout their education.

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