

“It is surprising how much satisfaction you gain from knowing that you are helping young people in the local community.”

Number Partners volunteer, Birmingham

“The best thing about having a Number Partner is being able to explain things and having fun whilst learning maths.”

Carly, aged 8

“My Number Partner has given me confidence to put my hand up in class... he showed me that maths can be really fun and exciting.”

Kelly, aged 9



**A volunteering
scheme bringing maths
to life in schools**

What is Number Partners?

Number Partners is a volunteering scheme that brings together business volunteers and schools. The scheme provides extra help with maths for children aged from 7 to 14, as well as giving them added confidence and access to additional adult role-models.

"I usually arrive at the school 5 or 10 minutes before my session starts, so I can have a quick chat with the teacher and catch up on what's been going on with my kids.

Pamela and Abdul collect me from the main corridor and we go along to the library with the other Number Partners. It usually takes a while to get them going, so we have a chat about what they've been doing in class in the past week. Sometimes we do some work with number lines or cards, then we choose a game which we play together for about twenty minutes. At the end of a session, we fill in their diaries which I leave for their teacher, before heading off back to the office."

Number Partner, Lambeth

Number Partners volunteers needn't be mathematical geniuses, accountants or bankers. They just need to like children, be good listeners and be enthusiastic about learning. It's also important that they can commit to giving the time needed for travel to and from the school, plus around half an hour with the children, on a weekly basis, and that they don't let their partners (the children) down. Regularity and continuity of visits is very important for the progress of the children involved in Number Partners.

Volunteers attend a training session, receive their volunteer's handbook and visit the school to meet their partner children and the teachers. They then spend around half an hour a week, preferably either at the start of the day or at lunchtime, in school working and playing with the children, using the board games and any other resources the school has available. Regular catch-ups with the children's teacher help the sessions go as well as possible for everyone.

National Numbers Partners has all of the materials needed to fully support the scheme in primary and secondary classrooms. There is a large variety of games available for volunteers to use in their sessions with the children. The Number Challenge games, designed by Number Partners and produced by BEAM education, are adapted for use in primary schools. Number Partners has now prepared an equivalent box of games and activities targeted at secondary schools. In addition, there are training materials and a specially produced video to support new volunteers.

Every volunteer will receive a handbook giving them guidance on how to work with children, a code of conduct, activity and game ideas and a diary to record children's progress. A similar handbook has been produced to support both school and business co-ordinators in developing successful partnerships.

Support materials



What happens in a typical visit to a school?

The volunteer's role



If 1 adult helps 2 children in school once a week, who learns the most?



Number Partners helps you find the answer.

Number Partners is an innovative scheme which promotes the enjoyment of maths amongst children in primary and secondary schools. It supports the Government's National Numeracy Strategy, focusing on those youngsters who could benefit from extra support with maths. This partnership between business and local communities recognises the importance of numeracy to every child's long-term prospects.

Number Partners benefits all those involved:

- Through the use of child-friendly games and puzzles and the dedicated attention of their Number Partner, the children develop both their ability and confidence with numbers and their self-esteem and communication skills.
- Teachers value the extra support that Number Partners volunteers bring which not only helps the pupils taking part but also has an impact on the rest of the class.

- Volunteers – from all areas of business – develop their personal and business skills through fun, rewarding sessions with the children.
- Employers attract and retain loyal staff who value the opportunity to participate in a worthwhile scheme that benefits the local community.

Number Partners involves motivated people giving up an hour each week during term time in a local school. Equally importantly, it involves a company providing them with the time and resources to do so.

If you'd like to find out how you or your organisation can help and why everyone will benefit if you do, please contact the Number Partners Helpline on **01904 424261**, email **info@numberpartners.org**.

The national Number Partners consortium and funders include: Business in the Community, Count On, Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein, Educational Communications, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, HSBC, KPMG LLP (UK), Sir John Cass's Foundation, Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership, Unilever and Watson Wyatt LLP.

