The Joint Mathematical Council of the United Kingdom

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Registered Office: De Morgan House, 57-58 Russell Square, London, WC1B 4HS

Minutes of the General Meeting held at De Morgan House and online at 11:00 am on Thursday 11 June 2026

Present

Officers	
Chair	Noel-Ann Bradshaw
Deputy Chair	Jenni Ingram
Secretary	Sue Pope
Treasurer	Fiona Curtis
Co-opted trustee	Alf Coles
Representatives of Participating Bodies	
Adults Learning Mathematics	Diane Dalby
Association for Mathematics in Education	Helen Madeley and David Miles
British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics	Elena Nardi
British Society for the History of Mathematics	Tony Mann
Collaborative Research Network (CLR-UK)	Ruth Trundley
Dyscalculia Network	Cat Eadle
Early Childhood Maths Group (ECMG)	Sue Gifford
Edinburgh Mathematical Society	-
Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences	Mary McAlinden
Institute of Mathematics and its Applications	Paul Glaister
London Mathematical Society	Mary McAlinden
Mathematics in Education and Industry	Jen Shearman (deputy)
National Numeracy	Paul Milner
Mathematics Support Programme Wales	-
NRICH	-
Operational Research Society	Carol McLaughlin (deputy)
Royal Academy of Engineering	Dean Thompson
Royal Statistical Society	Darren Macey (deputy)
Scottish Mathematical Council	Bill Richardson
United Kingdom Mathematics Trust	-
Co-opted Members	
Immediate Past Chair	-
UK Representative to the International Commission on Mathematical Education	Paul Glaister
British Congress of Mathematics Education	Ruth Trundley
Social Media Lead	-
Representatives of Observing and Other Bodies	
Department for Education [England]	Catherine MacKenzie
Department of Education [Northern Ireland]	Julie Harris
Education Scotland	-
National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics	Viv Townsend (deputy)
The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	-
The Royal Society	Cath Boulton
The Royal Society Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education	-
Qualifications Scotland	-
Welsh Government Education Department	-
Academy for the Mathematical Sciences	-

1 Introduction

1.1 **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular new members and deputies.

1.2 **Practical Arrangements** The Secretary explained the fire evacuation procedures and arrangements for lunch.

1.3 **Apologies for absence** Apologies for absence were received from:
Charlie Stripp (MEI) – deputy: Jen Shearman; John Neeson (Education Scotland); Lynne McClure (AcadMathSci); Liz Woodham/Charlie Gilderdale (NRICH); Sue Madgwick (NCETM) – deputy: Viv Townsend; Tony Mann (BSHM); Zoe Nye (RSS) – deputy: Darren Macey; Andy Noyes (Immediate Past Chair), Georgina Hollmes (QS); Helen Martin (EMS); Kristian Evans (MSPW); Chris Brignell (OME), Chiara Carparelli (ORS) – deputy: Carol McLaughlin, Sarah Old (Ofqual), Matthew Main (UKMT)

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2026

2.1 **Approval of the minutes of the meeting on Thursday 26 February**

The minutes were approved.

2.2 **Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda**

Trustees are considering a discussion about Mathematics Careers that includes opportunities in OR and data science

3 Reports from Trustees

3.1 **Chair** The Chair's report was noted. The Copyright Licensing Agency has requested JMC to consider applying for a licence. There was general consensus that this was not necessary. Chair to prepare a response to CLA.

3.2 **Deputy Chair** The Deputy Chair's report was noted.

3.3 **Secretary** The Secretary's report was noted. There will be a call for nominations for trustees at the end of June with a deadline of 30 September, for election at the AGM on 5 November.

3.4 **Treasurer** The Treasurer's report was noted.

3.5 **Constitution:** This has been reviewed, no changes required.

3.6 **Bye Laws:** These have been reviewed, no changes required.

3.7 **Policies:** These have been reviewed, no changes required.

3.8 **Risk Register:** This has been reviewed and updated by the trustees.

4 Matters for Council Decision

4.1 **Participating Body** Council agreed to accept the Northern Ireland Mathematics Teacher Association (NIMTA) as a participating body.

5 Reports from Committees

5.1 **BCME**

BCME takes place 23 and 24 October 2026 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. The report was noted. The programme will be finalised during w/c 15 June ensuring input from all four nations and across all phases. Presenters should be informed by the end of June. 47 bursaries are currently on offer. Early Bird rates finish at the end of July.

5.2 **ICME**

ICME is in Prague in 2028. Nothing to report at this stage.

6 Reports from Participating Bodies

The submitted reports were noted. Additionally:

6.1 A special edition the ALM International Journal on Mathematics in Prisons is in preparation.

6.2 AMiE has recruited Lizzy Gregory as member engagement officer to enable Sandi Atkinson (CEO) to focus on strategic matters. Helen is stepping down as an AMIE trustee at the AGM on 30 June.

6.3 Elena Nardi is the new chair, taking over from Alf Coles. BSRLM will prepare a national presentation for ICME in 2028. RME is moving to four issues each year. BSRLM is looking for conference venues.

6.5 CLR(UK) has opportunities to participate on 23 June 1800-1930 online www.collaborative-lesson-research.uk/events/network-event-2 and in Copenhagen 5-6 October www.collaborative-lesson-research.uk/events/clr-copenhagen

6.6 Dyscalculia Network is working with UCL to design a survey for schools about dyscalculia, to be launched in September.

6.7 ECMG The Best Start in Life website for parents has nothing about mathematics. The group has managed to get something into the guidance for starting Reception and has prepared a Best Start with Mathematics poster for Early Years setting. There is a families' section of the ECMG website.

6.10 IMA The new president is very keen to promote the Mathematics Matters series and is calling for submissions that showcase meaningful mathematical content, real-world impact, and engaging insights: Mathematics Matters: Showcasing Mathematics in Action - IMA.

6.12 MEI Alice Coates (currently with STEM Learning) is joining MEI as Director for Strategic Communications and Partnerships.

6.14 National Numeracy is recruiting schools for involvement in a primary/secondary transition project.
6.15 NRICH asked members to share their update with their organisations.
6.16 ORS has freely available teaching resources www.theorsociety.com/teachers

6.18 RSS A new statistics and data science centre at Imperial College is being launched on 3 July.

6.19 SMC The conference on Saturday 16 May 2026 had relatively low attendance, making it potentially unsustainable in the future. In 2027, the conference may be held in March.

7 Reports from Observing and other Bodies

The reports from NCETM, the Royal Society & ACME and the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences were noted.

7.1 DfE 10-week consultation on the National Curriculum proposed revisions is due to open in September. Non-statutory guidance will be available for consultation.

7.6 The Observatory for Mathematical Education requests members follow them on LinkedIn for regular updates https://www.linkedin.com/company/observatory-for-mathematical-education/

7.11 The Academy for the Mathematical Sciences requests members promote the Maths Can Take You Anywhere campaign and resources. There will be a call for fellows later in the year, following a similar process to last year.

8 Discussion of reports

The requests from the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences, BSRLM, National Numeracy, NRICH, and the Observatory for Mathematical Education were noted.

9 Any other business

There was no other business.

10 Discussion

10.1 **Update on RS/JMC Algebra report** by Jennie Golding, Darren Macey & Tim Clark
The draft report was circulated with the papers and the final report will soon be available on the JMC website. The presentation is distributed with the minutes.

Jennie described the task and explained how education in the UK has further fragmented since the 1997 JMC/RS report (England, Wales and Northern Ireland all had the same curriculum at that time). The team has identified a need for a more expansive view of algebra that includes confident fluency and sense-making. Young children have profound mathematical understandings that could be built on much more effectively to develop algebraic thinking. Algebraic understandings need to be developed and

secure before introducing formal notation. Digital technologies can enhance learning and provide valuable tools. Confident movement between different representations of the same mathematical ideas is extremely important for learning mathematics.

Three sets of recommendations for different stakeholders: Teaching and learning (teachers); curriculum and assessment (designers); teacher education and system capacity (policymakers).

A key message is the potential impact of early learning and experiences and how this can enhance learning of algebra.

Members shared their experience of how algebra can present difficulties for mathematics undergraduates.

10.2 **Rapid Review of Data Education** by Vinay Kathotia

The presentation is distributed with the minutes and the full report is available online www.jmc.org.uk/wordpress-cms/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Rapid-Review-of-Data-Education-within-Mathematics-5-16-FINAL.pdf.

Vinay identified the key reports that informed the review. They identified six principles of data education: real data, the full investigative cycle including question posing, broader than statistical analysis, variability, uncertainty, use of technology. They also identified seven data education competencies. They asked what level of granularity would be helpful and in the report presented the competencies for Years 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9, and 10-11.

Opportunity during the curriculum review to ensure coherent data education across the curriculum. There are many opportunities in the current curriculum for science, geography and PSHE to develop data literacy. This is an international challenge.

Since the review was completed a US report on Data and Computing in K–12 Education: Foundational Competencies (2026) has become available www.nationalacademies.org/read/29303. The competencies identified in the Rapid Review are remarkably similar.

10.3 **Update on RS/JMC Geometry report** by Taro Fujita

The draft report was circulated with the papers and the final report will soon be available on the JMC website The presentation is distributed with the minutes.

The 2001 RS/JMC geometry report recommended that geometry should be part of every learner's entitlement and included eight principles and 16 recommendations. These were grouped into three themes: the status of geometry in the curriculum; pedagogical approaches and curriculum and assessment.

The current assessment encourages rote learning at the expense of conceptual understanding and geometrical reasoning. A potential progression in geometric reasoning is presented in the report, but this doesn't do justice to the inherent complexity. For example, visual/spatial thinking is important at all ages and stages.

Making geometrical reasoning explicit in the curriculum would help and ensuring assessments actually go beyond recall. Recommendations cover the curriculum and assessment, teacher development and funding classroom research and development. In Japan small amounts of funding are available to enable classroom research. Teachers need to know what different technologies and tools can do. Reasoning needs to have a much higher profile in the curriculum.

10.4 **National Curriculum Review update** by Lynne McClure

Unfortunately, Lynne was unable to join the meeting but her slides are attached for information.

10.5 **Suggestions for future JMC Discussions**

Suggestions for future afternoon discussions

- The ITE/CPD landscape across the UK including use of digital technology.
- Mathematics assessment including the assessment of reasoning.
- Mathematics careers and pathways
- Regular updating of the Teaching and Learning of Algebra and Geometry reports

Council members are welcome to contact the chair or secretary with other suggestions.

11 Conclusion

The Chair thanked presenters of the Discussion items and everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

12 Dates of future meeting

Thursday 5 November at De Morgan House Deadline for papers: Thursday 22 October 2026