

Pragmatic Quadratic

Topic: Algebra Forming a quadratic equation from a word problem.

Year Group: 2nd Year Level: Higher

Presenting the Problem

A lady wishes to buy new carpet for her sitting room. She knows the area of the room is 24m². Use the diagram to form an algebraic expression to represent the area of the room.





Reflecting on the Learning

Students preferred method was dividing the shape into two rectangles using a vertical line and finding the area of each section separately, as the dimensions were already on the diagram. A few students completed the rectangle and subtracted the extra carpet not needed. One key observation was that one student was who unable to answer the question during the time allocated was able to come up with an alternative solution after seeing the three methods presented by their classmates during the Ceardaíocht. Another student following further probing of the solutions presented also discovered a fifth method. Students enjoyed the fact that there was more than one way to form the equation and their language used during their explanations of their method and reasoning was of a very high standard.

All the teachers involved in Lesson Study considered it exceptionally worthwhile and of huge benefit to them in their approach to problem solving in their classrooms.



Developed by Developed by Clodagh Monaghan (O' Carolan College), Tanya Murphy, Marie Gaffney (Dunshaughlin CC), Nicola McGrane (Old Bawn CS) and Carmel Quigley MDT, with thanks to the students from O' Carolan College, Nobber, Co. Meath.

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