Decomposition in KS1

In Killean Primary School children are taught subtraction using the Decomposition Method. This involves the concept of exchange. We teach this method because it can be easily explained through the use of structured apparatus before moving on to more formal recording. The examples below show the decomposition process.

Example 1: T U

 3 4

* 1 8

 Tens Units (ones)

1.  Put out 3 tens and

 4 units (ones)

**4 units(ones) take away 8**

**units (ones)-I cannot do this**

Tens Units (ones)





1. Exchange a ten for 10 units



 **I now have 2 tens and 14**

 **units (ones)**

1. Subtract the units(ones)

 Tens Units (ones)

**14 units (ones) take away 8**

**units (ones) leaves 6 units(ones)**

1. Subtract the tens

 Tens Units (ones)

**2 tens take away 1 ten**

**leaves 1 ten**

**So, the answer to**

**34 subtract 18 is 16.**

1. The written recording is: T U

 2 1

3 4

 - 1 8

 1 6