

Averages

• **Mean** The '*normal*' average

Add them up and divide by how many there are

The mean is the most commonly used average. The mean average **shares out equally**.

The mean amount of pocket money for a group of children could be found by collecting all the money together and distributing it equally between all the children. However much each child now has is the mean average.

Advantages: Is directly related to the total (eg, 100 people with a mean of 1.5 children each must have 150 children in total).

• **Median** The '*middle*' average

Put them in order and choose the middle one

The median finds the half-way value. Roughly speaking, **half the values will be bigger, half smaller**.

The median amount of pocket money would be found by lining up the children in order of how much they get, and then finding the middle child in the line. However much this child gets is the median pocket money.

Advantages: Is not skewed by a few large numbers.

• **Mode** The '*favourite*' average

The most common or most popular value

The mode is the least mathematical average. **The value or values which crop up the most** will be the mode.

The modal amount of pocket money would be found by making a tally of the different amounts and picking the one that is the most common.

Advantages: Data does not need to be numerical. Note: if two or more values are joint favourite, they are all modes.