Make an ‘equals sign base board’ on card by fastening split pins in the middle of the card to create an ‘=’ sign.

This can be used to (re) introduce the equals sign and discuss fact that whatever is on the left of the sign must be equal in value to whatever is on the right (but it could look different, for example 24 = 10 + 14).

Numbers that are not equal in value can be practically compared and the split pins used to transform the equals sign (=) introduce into the greater (>) and less than )<) signs to support comparisons. For example, when the left side number is greater model opening out the equals sign to create the greater than sign and closing the equals sign at the left side when the number is less than the right side.

Pupils can use practical apparatus to build and compare their numbers and then use the baseboard to create the number sentence.