Comparing decimals

Understanding the Topic

- Comparing decimals means checking which number is greater, smaller, or equal.
- Always compare from left to right, starting from the whole number part.
- If whole numbers are equal, then compare digit by digit after the decimal point.
- If needed, add zeros to make the decimals have the same number of digits.

Steps to Compare Decimals

- **Step 1:** Compare the whole number part.
- **Step 2:** If whole numbers are equal, compare the tenths.
- **Step 3:** If tenths are equal, compare the hundredths, and so on.
- **Step 4:** Add zeros to make like decimals if needed.

Examples with Solutions

1. Compare 3.2 and 3.5

Whole number: 3 = 3

Tenths: 2 < 5

3.2 < 3.5

2. Compare 4.75 and 4.8

Whole number: 4 = 4

Tenths: 7 < 8

4.75 < 4.8

3. Compare 2.6 and 2.60

Make like decimals: 2.6 = 2.60

2.6 = 2.60

4. Compare 5.09 and 5.1

Make like decimals: 5.09 and 5.10

Hundredths: 9 < 10

5.09 < 5.1

5. Compare 6.48 and 6.5

Make like decimals: 6.48 and 6.50

Hundredths: 48 < 50

6.48 < 6.5

Summary Points

- Always start comparing from the whole number part.
- If whole numbers are equal, compare tenths, then hundredths.
- Add zeros to make like decimals if needed.
- Decimal with the greater value after comparing is the bigger number.
- **Example:** 4.08 < 4.8 because 08 < 80.