



Class Structure Policy

Rationale

- To create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- To enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer and transition during phases
- To promote a greater sense of community in a large three-form entry school

Principles

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, Senior Leadership Team and the Headteacher
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions
- We will communicate the criteria for class mixing in an open and transparent way
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes

The process:

- All staff observe the children's friendships at work and play
- Children will be consulted for their views on friendships
- Class Teachers meet to ensure a good balance of friendships, range of educational, social and personal needs, gender and maturity are represented in each class
- Senior Leadership Team meet with Class Teachers to discuss and finalise groupings
- Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team meet and approve classes
- New Classes are shared with parents and children in the second half of the Summer term to support transition

Criteria for Class Mixing

Classes will be mixed to achieve a good balance according to the following criteria:

- Gender and age
- Range of educational, social and personal needs
- Level of maturity and attitudes to learning
- Friendships*

*Friendships

Over the course of their time in school, children will have a range of friendship experiences. We find that some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others can stand the test of time. With that in mind and as we prepare to draw up the class lists we will consult with the children, use observations of them in the classroom and at play to inform our decision making.

Timescales

- Staff discuss their observations of friendships in the Summer Term
- All information is considered along with the other criteria after May half-term
- Class lists are drawn up and shared with the Senior Leadership Team (June)
- Class lists finally approved by Headteacher (June)
- Class lists communicated to parents and children as part of the end of year arrangements

Review

The Senior Leadership Team and Headteachers of both schools will review the process and criteria for each year's class mixing arrangements in the Autumn Term ahead of the following year's class mixing.

Approved by the Governing Body – January 2017

Review September 2017