



CLASS PLACEMENT RATIONALE

Why are classes re-grouped each academic year?

In the Primary school it is necessary to re-group our classes each academic year due to the size of the school and the nature of the groupings which develop during the course of each academic year. Our school has a constant enrolment policy; as a result we take in children throughout the year placing them in classes where spaces are available. By the end of an academic year, with children joining and leaving the class, class demographics can become quite unbalanced.

Therefore, rather than move a class to the next year level as a whole group, we choose to re-group our classes prior to the beginning of each academic year. This ensures that each class starts the academic year with a balanced student profile.

What criteria do staff use to determine the new class groupings?

Towards the end of Term 3 new class lists are made with the following criteria in mind:

- boys/girls
- nationalities
- attainment levels
- level of English proficiency
- Learning Support needs
- friendship groups

Can my child choose his / her friends for the new class?

Before teachers start to consider class lists for the new school year, each child is asked to select four friends from their year group with whom they would like to be in a class next school year. Children are guaranteed to be placed with at least one of their nominated friends.

Can parents request a particular teacher or friendship grouping for their child?

Naturally parents have an interest in the class in which their child will be placed and may want to have a say in the selection of their child's class. However, there are many considerations that need to be made in order to create successful class groups, no matter who the teacher is. As teachers we have an understanding of how complex a 'balancing act' this can be. For example, friendships should be looked at positively and reflectively; are they conducive to children's learning? Does a dominant friend limit a peer's ability to reach their true potential?

As the teachers compile the balanced class lists, they will, where possible and appropriate, factor in parent input as well as their own sense of which teacher would be a good match with a given student. Balanced classes are the first priority, however, and much consultation between all relevant teachers, Heads of Year and the Primary Leadership Team takes place prior to confirming the final class groups.

When do parents find out about the new class groupings and teachers?

Our annual Move Up Morning takes place on the second last Friday of the school year. During this time children will visit their new classroom, in their new class group and, where possible, meet their new teacher. On this day children will bring home with them a letter which will inform parents of their child's new class teacher, plus the other teachers in their child's year group.

Parents should contact the Head of Primary if they have any concerns about their child's class placement.