



Mixing Classes

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 our large two-form entry schools

PRINCIPLES

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of class teachers, phase leaders and the Senior Leadership Team
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes

PROCESS

- Class teachers and teaching assistants observe the children's friendships at work and play
- Class teachers meet to ensure a good balance of friendships, range of educational, social and personal needs and maturity are represented in each class
- Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team meet and discuss classes; revisions are made and checked
- New classes are shared with parents and children in July.

CRITERIA FOR CLASS MIXING

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

- Range of educational, social and personal needs
- Level of maturity
- Friendships

FRIENDSHIPS

Over the course of their primary years, children will have a range of friendship experiences. We find that some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others endure over time. Some friendships may be positive for all children involved, others may not benefit all the children concerned. As we prepare to draw up the class lists, we will use observations of the children in the classroom and at play to inform our decision making.

TIMESCALES

- Class Teachers and teaching assistants discuss their observations of friendships in the Summer Term
- Observations are considered along with the other criteria after half term



- Class lists are drawn up and shared with Key Stage leaders (June)
- Class lists approved by Headteacher (June/July)
- Class lists communicated to parents and children in July as part of transition arrangements.

REVIEW

The Senior Leadership Team and Headteacher will review the process and criteria for each year's class mixing arrangements at the beginning of each Summer Term ahead of the following year's class mixing.