

School Class Mixing Policy



Class Mixing Policy Statement

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 develop greater resilience within children, helping them to manage and respond to change.
- To ensure the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer and transition during phases.
- To promote a greater sense of community.
- In the longer-term, to assist them in transfer to Secondary School.
- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, the Phase Leader and the Head Teacher.
- 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.

The Process

- Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants observe the children's friendships at work and play in the summer term, over sustained periods of time.
 - Class Teachers and Phase Leader meet to ensure a good balance of friendships; range of educational, social and personal needs; gender; maturity (including consideration of summer births); and Jersey-Premium eligibility are represented in each class.
 - Head Teacher meets with Phase Leader to discuss and finalise groupings.
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- New classes are shared with parents and children in July.

Criteria for Mixing

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

- Gender
- Range of educational, social and personal needs, e.g. family, religious, physical
- 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 can stand the test of time. With that in mind and 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 May half-term
- Class lists are drawn up and shared with Phase Leaders (June)
- Class lists approved by the Head Teacher (July)
- Class lists communicated to parents and children in July as part of the end of year arrangements.

Review

The Senior Leadership Team and Head Teacher 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. It is anticipated that classes will only be mixed at the end of Reception, Year 2 and Year 4 (if and where required).
