

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Mixed Classes Policy



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1. School Mission

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, our Mission is:

**TO LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS
BY
LEARNING TOGETHER
LOVING OURSELVES
LOVING EACH OTHER
LOVING ALL PEOPLE
LOVING LIFE ITSELF
AND
CONSTANTLY STRIVING FOR
EXCELLENCE
WORTHY OF OUR GOD GIVEN GIFTS.**

2. Introduction

At St. Mary's, we recognise that each member of our school community is created in the image and likeness of God, and that each child should be taught in an environment which ensures that they meet their full potential.

We will review classes each year and mix classes* dependent on needs of the school and children and to ensure that:

- There are 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

* Class mixing is reviewed at the end of each school year and any movement between classes takes place if it is deemed needed for the education and wellbeing of the class.

3. Principles

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) 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 always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes. The children will be asked to name children they may like to be in a class with. When teachers organise classes, they will ensure that the child is in a class with at least one of the children that they have named.

4. The 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, gender and maturity are represented in each class
- SLT meets 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 July.

5. Criteria for class mixing

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

- Date of birth
- Gender
- Ability levels
- Range of special educational, social and personal needs
- Friendships*

*Friendships: Over the course of their Primary years, children will have a range of friendship experiences. We find that with children some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others can stand the test of time. With that in mind and to inform our decision making as we prepare to draw up the class lists, we will use: observations of the children in the classroom and at play and the children's list of names they may want to be in a class with. They will be with at least one of the children that they name.

6. Timescales if changes are to be made

- Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants discuss their observations of friendships in the Summer Term

- Observations are considered along with the criteria listed above after May half-term
- Class lists are drawn up by teachers and shared with SLT (June)
- Class lists approved by Headteacher (July)
- Class lists communicated to parents and children in July as part of the end of year arrangements.

7. Review

The Policy will be reviewed annually and agreed by the Governing Body. The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will review the process and criteria for each year's class mixing arrangements.