

CLASS MIXING POLICY

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Primary School



Approved by: Kathleen Coll

Date: May 2017

Last reviewed on: Autumn 2024

Next review due by: Autumn 2026

1.1 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 two-form entry primary school

1.2 Principles

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, the Phase Leader 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

1.3 The process:

- Classes will be mixed at the end of Reception, and where the school feels it is appropriate other year groups may be mixed.
- 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
- Phase Leader 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 on move up day

1.4 Criteria for Class Mixing

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

- Gender
- English as an additional language
- 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 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.

1.5 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 Key Stage leaders (Early June)
- Class lists approved by Headteacher (one week before move up day)
- Children meet their new teacher in their new class on move up day, as part of the end of year arrangements
- Class lists communicated to parents on move up day

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.