




Shawlands Primary School Policy

Mixed-Class Policy

REVIEWED EVERY 3 YEARS

Reviewed by D Thompson SUMMER 2023

Approved by the Governing Body on: 30th August 2023

Signed..... 
MARK HEMPSHALL.....

Rationale

- To create classes that are mixed fairly and support a class teacher to deliver quality provision for all pupils in each year group and across the school
- To ensure that all pupils have equal access to an appropriate curriculum

Other Benefits

- 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 classes remain balanced in response to in-year pupil transfers and transition

Principles

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, Senior Leaders and the Headteacher
- The best interests of individual children and classes as a whole will be a main consideration when making decisions, and where possible in Key Stage Two places in each class will be limited to 30.
- We will communicate the criteria for class mixing in an open and transparent way
- We may consider the social groupings of the children when we create new classes but this will not be the most significant factor

The Process

- Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team meet to draw up initial class lists
- Class Teachers meet to ensure a good balance of factors have been considered, including ensuring that a range of educational, social and personal needs, gender and maturity are represented in each class.
- Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team meet again to consider Class Teachers' recommendations and to finalise groupings.
- New Classes are shared with parents and children in late June/early July when end of year reports are published.

Criteria for Class Mixing

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

- Age of the child (especially mixed classes in lower school)
- Academic ability and need (e.g. support and challenge)
- Range of educational, social and personal needs
- Gender
- Level of maturity and behavioural need

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 this 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 as part of our decision making.

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. Parents are, of course, welcome to share their views but we would ask that the professional judgement of our senior staff is trusted and respected.