

Mixed Class Policy

Warboys Community Primary School

Date June 2017

Date Policy Adopted: June 2017

Date Policy to be Reviewed: June 2019

Policy for Mixed-Age Classes

1. Background

Due to fluctuating school pupil numbers and associated school funding it is necessary to have flexibility in the structure of registration classes. This will include the consideration of mixed age classes. The school has operated with mixed-age classes for a number of years because the intake at Warboys continues to fluctuate between one class and a class and a half. As a result of pupil numbers not always being consistent each year, governors have agreed there will be a need for mixed aged classes in some cohorts.

2. Policy for class structure including mixed age classes

Teachers and Team Leaders will place children into registration classes taking into account the following factors - date of birth, siblings, special educational needs provision, advice from other teachers and when necessary other professional colleagues (eg. Under 5's Leader, specialist teaching team).

Mixed Aged Classes

For the mixed aged classes, date of birth will be the first main criteria with the oldest children in one year group coming together with the youngest of the year group above to form a new class. There may be exceptions to this, and for these individual children the parents concerned will be invited to discuss the teacher's decision before making them final.

Where there are two classes with the same mix of year groups [for example two Yr 4/Yr 3 mixed classes], these classes will be parallel ie gender, ability, SEND needs will be balanced between each class. Although classes are very carefully organised, at times and on special occasions children may change to different teaching groups during the school day or may access additional support outside of the classroom depending on their individual needs. As is normal practice, children will be taught the relevant curriculum in each Key Stage and for each year group and work will be adapted and pitched to meet the needs of every child in the class.

County guidance suggests that where possible, numbers of children in a mixed class with 2 year groups [eg Yr3/Yr 4 mix] should not exceed 30 in Key Stage 1 or 32 in Key Stage 2. If there are mixed classes with three year groups [eg a class of Yr3/Yr4 and Yr5 children] county guidance recommends that numbers should not exceed 28 in Key Stage 1 or 30 in Key stage 2.

Single Age Classes

In a year when there is more than one class of a single age [eg two straight year 1 classes] they will be organised as parallel classes with an equal mix of gender, ability and children with additional educational needs. As with mixed aged classes, at times and on special occasions, children may change to different teaching groups during the school day or may access additional support outside of the classroom depending on their individual needs.

County guidance suggests single age classes should be no larger than 30 in Key Stage one and 34 in Key Stage 2.

Early Years Foundation Stage [EYFS]

When budget constraints allow and numbers of pupils entering the school in the EYFS in September are sufficient, children will be divided into two parallel registration classes - Turtles and Dolphins. However, every child will have access to all resources within the Early Years Foundation 'Hub'. Although pupil numbers do fluctuate we will try hard to keep EYFS as single age classes. Staffing in the EYFS will be appropriate to ensure the full entitlement of the EYFS curriculum can be delivered with ease to all children.

Special Educational Needs

All children entitled to support, identified in their Statement of Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan, will continue receiving such support whichever registration class they are in. This support will take a variety of forms including some 1:1 provision; small group support in class, small group support away from the classroom, external support when required or additional physical resources to support independent learning. Each of these will be monitored by the school inclusion leader.

Concerns from Parents/Carers

Children quickly adapt to their new classes and we ask they are given an opportunity to do so. We will give them several opportunities before the end of the school year to meet their new class mates.

- Parents will be informed of where their child is placed and given an opportunity to discuss these placements with the **existing teacher** or **team leaders** if they have serious concerns.
- After a trial period and discussion with team leaders, if a parent/carer remains unhappy about where their child is placed they can write to the Headteacher outlining their specific concerns and reasons for requesting a change.
- This will be considered by the Headteacher alongside reasons given by teachers and team leaders and a final decision will be made in writing to the parent within 10 working days.
- If the parent/carer remains unhappy they can use the school's formal complaints procedure outlined in the guidance recommended by Cambridgeshire County Council.

4. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to take into account of pupil numbers and budget figures each year.