



Class Placement Policy

Document Control

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1	May 18	Introduction of new policy	I.Webb
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Approval		
Meeting	Date	Chair
Full Governors	12.1.23	Martin Counter
T and L	11.12.25	Helen Brocklehurst

Aims

Our aim when building classes is to ensure each class has a good balance and will provide the optimum environment in which children can progress with their learning. This policy also gives parents and carers information about how children are allocated to classes before the start of the academic year.

Rationale

At Wirksworth we believe that it is beneficial to alter classes/ mix children to enhance the learning experience of our pupils and to build resilience. It will be decided on a year by year basis, however pupils may be moved in exceptional circumstances during the course of the school year. Such a decision will not be taken lightly and only after all other options have been explored.

Principles

First and foremost, decisions are made at all times in the best interests of the individual child. Within this are four crucial considerations:

1. Maintaining balanced class sizes across the school.
2. Social groupings- staff will look at the social groupings of the child and make the best possible arrangements with regards to keeping children with members of their friendship group, but also consider who they work best with each other. At the same time, pupils will be grouped to avoid potential personality clashes.
3. Ability of the child- the ability of the child will be determined by objective evidence in the form of assessment, data, work in books and observations. Within each class we will be maintaining a mixed ability, from SEN to high ability.
4. Behaviour of pupils- staff will ensure the classes are constructed to ensure the best pupils learning behaviour is maintained, not on friendship.

Teaching staff will make the decision together with senior leaders who will construct the new classes.

Parent/carer contributions

It is not possible to allow parent preferences for particular teachers to be considered and it is our policy not to change class lists for this reason. Please trust the school to make the best choice for each individual child.

Procedures

- Pupils will be asked to name five friends which they would like to be in a class with for the following year. These friends will be written down in no preferential order. Each name on the list will be as important as the others. We will ensure the child has at least one friend.

- Current teaching staff will spend a significant amount of time reviewing classes and consider the principles and decision making mentioned above.
- Pupils will be made aware of the class groupings in school and will have an opportunity to meet their new teacher and class before the end of term.
- If pupils have concerns about their new classes nurture support may be given to help develop the pupil's resilience and to cope with change in a positive way.
- Parents will be informed of the class groupings via letter on the same day.
- For new Year 3 parents they will be informed of the class via a letter, prior to starting in September. As part of transition the year 3 teachers will visit the children at the infant school, and the year 3 pupils will get an opportunity to visit the Junior school for a tour and to meet their new teacher before they start in the following September.

Decision making

- Decisions regarding the placement of the children are carefully worked out collectively in each key stage by the staff involved. Once these have been decided then the list will be discussed at a staff meeting and agreed by the senior leadership team.
- Children will be told of the class groupings in school.
- Parents will be informed of which class their child is in via letter.
- Parents wishing to seek clarification of the decisions made can make an appointment to discuss the decision more detail with the child's current class teacher.
- After speaking to the class teacher if concerns remain parents should speak to the senior teacher and finally the head-teacher. (It is **extremely unlikely** decisions will be changed **unless exceptional circumstances** have been identified.)
- If following discussions with the head-teacher and chair of governors, significant concerns remain, parents have the right of appeal to a Governor's committee.

New pupils

Generally, if new children join the school the decision where to place them will be based upon:

- Spaces in the class
- Any needs (learning or behavioural etc.) of the child
- Information from parents or carers, previous school and other agencies.

Twins/siblings

In the case of twins, it is our preferred school policy that they are generally taught in parallel classes, however we will listen to parents and carers who are keen to keep them together. This policy is based on the fact that being taught in separate classes will enable the twins/siblings to:

- Develop their own identity
- Make the maximum progress with their learning
- Become confident individuals
- Develop individual resilience

Curriculum

As the cohort of children entering the school often ranges from 12-30, children will be in mixed year group classes. Although pupils will be taught in different classes, but in the same year group, they will be able to share the same playtimes, break times and joint activities such as trips and productions. The curriculum will be managed so that all pupils will have the same equal opportunities and coverage, regardless of which class they are in.

Conclusion

We strongly believe class placement arrangement should not be seen as “moving children up” or “keeping children down,” but a statement of our commitment to provide a suitable bespoke education for the individual child, ensuring all children can meet their full potential. It is our belief that by using our professional judgement we will be able to make an accurate assessment of which class is the most suitable for meeting the needs of all our children at Wirksworth Juniors.