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**Shawlands Primary School**

**Policy**

**Mixed-Class Policy**

**REVIEWED EVERY 3 YEARS**

**(SUMMER 2019)**

**Introduced: Summer 2016**

**Written by L McClure on:**

**Signed…………………………………..**

**Approved by the Governing Body on:**

**Signed……………………………………**

**Shawlands Primary School**

**Mixed-Class Policy**

**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

• To ensure that the ability gap in each class is closed to allow teachers to teach appropriately for all class members

• To target those pupils who may need extra support from a higher age class and those who may be more appropriately challenged in an older class

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

• To promote a greater sense of community in a growing community primary school

**Principles**

• The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class

Teachers, the Phase Leaders and the Headteacher

• We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as

a whole when making decisions but places in each class are limited to a maximum of 30 so some decisions need to be made with cohorts of 40 now moving through the school

• 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:**

• Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants observe the children’s learning and daily classwork/behaviour

• Class Teachers meet to ensure a good balance of factors are considered, including; 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 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 a part in informing our decision making.

*Timescales*

• Observations are considered along with the other criteria after May half-term

• Class lists are drawn up and shared with Key Stage leaders and teachers (early June)

• Class lists approved by Headteacher (mid-June)

• Class lists communicated to parents and children in late June/early July as part of the end of year

Arrangements linked to written reports and transition days

**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. All decisions made are in the ebst interests of the child’s education need. Friendship groups are more important to most children and their families but we must stress that this is not a priority in educational terms. The key social times in a day are mixed times such as playtimes and lunchtime so this would not impact core friendship groups.

This policy is available to view at:

<http://www.shawlandsprimaryschool.co.uk/policies>

**Shawlands Primary School**

**Summer 2016**