

Rosemount Primary and Nursery School



Class Policy

Updated June 2022

RATIONALE

Many things can affect the need for a school to adjust classes from one year to the next such as, the school budget, falling or rising school numbers, additional needs of pupils (SEN) as well as other reasons. In some cases, this will mean pupils being assigned to a composite class. A composite class is where two or more year groups are taught within the one class.

The number of teachers in a school is based upon the total school roll, not on the numbers in any single year group, and restructuring can take place to make efficient use of teaching staff.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent and transparent process for the establishment of classes in Rosemount Primary and Nursery School. It is a working document, which reflects the ethos and practice within our school.

All of our teachers are trained to work with mixed ability classes as the needs of children can vary greatly from year group to year group. In all primary classes there is a wide range of ability and all children will learn in different ways, responding to a variety of methods and resources.

The range of ability and need within each class is often reflective of society in general and can help pupils understand that we are all different, we learn at different paces and require different levels of support. All classes in primary schools are mixed ability. Research and data has shown that that composite classes, within two year groups, perform as well as straight classes.

PRINCIPLES

The whole ethos of Rosemount Primary and Nursery School is to provide every child with a happy, caring, learning environment in which all pupils are empowered to realise their full potential – whatever their needs and irrespective of ability, race or gender. We are wholly committed to delivering the best educational experience for all our pupils.

Over this past few years, classes at Rosemount PS have been restructured for two reasons – the need to create composite classes and, the need to create straight classes, formed from composite and straight classes.

CRITERIA

The criteria for the formation of these classes is in two parts. Part one is for composite classes that need to be formed. Part two is for straight classes that need to be formed from a composite and a straight class, to make two new classes.

Part One

Composite classes will be formed according to age – **with pupils within one class being within one year of each other's birthday.**

- Composite classes will be made up of two consecutive year groups.
- We will aim to optimise the pupil/teacher ratio where possible therefore enabling teachers to maximise the time spent with children.
- The placement of siblings, from two different year groups, in a composite class, will be discussed with the parent first and their view will be taken into account.
- In the unlikely event that two or more children have the same birth date and a determination needs to be made as to which child(ren) will be placed in a composite class, random selection shall be used.

Part Two

Straight classes (formed by amalgamating a composite and a straight class) will be done on the basis of alphabetical order – to ensure similar gender, age and ability balance.

- The first boy and the first girl alphabetically in the year group, will be placed in the first class and then the second boy and girl will be placed in the second class. The third boy and girl, alphabetically will be placed in the first class again and so on until the two classes are filled.

Exceptions to this policy may be made in the interests of pupil welfare and where there are Special Educational Needs considerations.

The principal will have the flexibility to exercise discretion where he is satisfied that this is in the best interest of the children concerned. Further considerations may include:

- Special Educational Needs
- Social/ emotional considerations
- Behavioural/Bullying issues
- Gender balance
- Maturity of the child
- Consultation with parents, whereby there are extenuating circumstances e.g splitting twins/siblings.
- If a child joins the school after classes have been determined in June, this child may be placed in the most suitable class, if class size is an issue.
- Where a teacher/assistant is also a parent of a child due to transfer to his/her class, additional consideration will be given to the placement of that child.
- This list is not exhaustive.

Where restructuring is necessary, parents will be informed of their child's placement at the end of the summer term.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Body will, in co-operation with the principal, determine Rosemount Primary and Nursery School's general policy and approach to class formation, establish the

appropriate staffing and funding arrangements and maintain a general oversight of the school's work.

The Principal has responsibility for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the school's work and is responsible for deciding on the optimum class structure within the school. The principal will keep the governing body fully informed.

The class teacher is responsible for treating all pupils as individuals and attempting to ensure that every child is reaching his/her full potential, whatever the composition of the class.

HANDLING OF PARENTAL CONCERNS

While there is no formal right to appeal against a decision on a child being placed in a particular class, we will always provide parents with the reasons for the establishment of the class and the school's rationale as to how pupils were allocated to a particular class. If a parent feels the school has not adhered to this policy they should raise their concern through the school's complaints procedure, a copy of which is available online or from the school office.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

This policy will be implemented in Rosemount Primary and Nursery School with effect from 30th May 2022

REVIEW

This policy will be regularly reviewed and updated in consultation with staff, it will be presented to Governors for approval and made available to parents, on request.

Signed (Principal):

Date

Signed (Chair of Governors)

Date