

POLICY FOR MIXING CLASSES

RATIONALE

- 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 promote a greater sense of community between class grades.
- To use as an Anti-Bullying Preventative Strategy.
- To build resilience and encourage skill to form new relationships.

PRINCIPLES

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgement of the Principal in consultation with management and staff.
- The best interest of the individual children and the class as a whole are considered.
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes

THE PROCESS

- Class Teachers and Support Team are consulted regarding friendships and relationships at work and play
- Class Teachers meet to ensure a good balance of friendships, range of educational, social and personal needs, gender and maturity are represented in each class
- Class teachers and Support teachers meet to discuss and draw up groupings.
- New Classes are presented to parents with end of year reports.
- The final decision rests with the School Principal.

CRITERIA

Class Mixing Classes will be mixed to achieve a good mix and balance according to the following criteria:

- Gender
- Educational, social and personal needs.

NOTE - Classes will be blended and not ability streamed.

FRIENDSHIPS

Children have a range of friendship experiences in primary school, some of which are fluid, and others more long lasting. Mixing Classes can prevent clique groups from developing and gives the opportunity for new friendships to develop.

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DATE: 01.04.2019

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