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Class Placement - Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the school have some split grade classes instead of having all straight year level classes?

All government schools are funded through a student-centred funding model. The amount of money we receive is dependent primarily on the number of students who enrol in our school. It is the responsibility of the principal to determine the best possible structure of classes. Another major influence on the number of classes we form is the teachers industrial agreement which states recommended maximum sizes for each class. These are as follows:

Year	Number of students per class
K	20
P (purpose built)	27
1-3	24
4-6	32
Split grade 4 -6	31
Split grade 3-4	23

Sometimes enrolments in a particular year level do not fit neatly into a round number of classes. In these cases, we may have to form a split or 'multi aged' class with the year below or above. This practice is well supported by research and our beliefs about how children learn, especially in the primary years. It is also often a practical necessity with our enrolment numbers.

The curriculum entitlement for each student will be the same as other students in that year level. Wherever practicable students placed in a split year level class will be provided with opportunities to participate in activities with their year level.

Why do we ask parents to leave class placement in the hands of the teaching staff?

As professional educators we strive to make the right choice and take into account all the information we have at hand. Our teachers have been working with your child on a daily basis all year gathering information on preferred learning styles, interests, social groups, emotional needs as well as their academic ability.

Previous teachers and specialist teachers are also consulted for their input. While it is certainly true that parents know their child the best, when a parent requests a specific

placement for their child, they do not have all the relevant information. Teachers, on the other hand, have the academic, social and emotional information about all students in a particular year level.

When will I know my child's placement?

Parents of children in Kindergarten are informed of their child's placement at the orientation session in Term 4. Parents of students in Years PP – 6 will be advised of their child's class placement through Flexibuzz two days prior to the start of the school year. This is to avoid any class changes due to decreased or increased enrolments or staff changes over the school break. Hardcopies of class lists will also be placed in the undercover area at the same time.

Parents of students who have special requirements or have twins will be contacted by the class teacher or a member of our Student Services Team to discuss their child's needs for the following year. Every effort is made to accurately plan for the following year, taking into account that we do lose and pick up enrolments throughout the year.

Can I request a particular teacher for my child either in writing or through discussion with my child's present teacher?

No, this is not part of the Class Placement Policy.

Can I request my child's placement with another child's in the classroom? Or, can I request my child not be placed with another particular child?

Class teachers ask students to list five (5) friends who they work and play well with during Term 4. Your child will be placed with at least 1 of their choices. When allocating children to classes, we endeavour to foster positive social interaction across a year group, by making socially balanced classes and to help prevent non-constructive relationships.

If your child is having difficulty with a student in his/her class, please inform the teacher so problem solving can take place.

This is the aspect of the school experience that reflects 'real life'; where students learn to function socially with all kinds of people.

The final decision on placement rests with the Principal.

Can we assume our second child will get the same teachers?

It is a coincidence if this happens as the school does not use historical records when placing children. New relationships are constructive and help us grow. All children are different and may respond well to a different teacher.

When I get my child's class placement, can I request that it be changed?

You may talk with one of the Deputy Principals or Principal about your concerns and be assured that those concerns will be shared with the teacher so your child's anxieties will be addressed.

Teachers run specific programs and activities at the beginning of the year to help children feel comfortable, get to know other students in the class and feel connected to the school. Class placements are considered final.

Changes to placements are not considered due to precedence and the chain reaction that this would create. While we feel we consider the individual child during the placement process, parents must realise their child is part of a complex equation in school placements.

What if my child is having difficulty in his/her new placement after school has started? Can we request a change then?

We will do everything we can to solve problems. Parents need to talk firstly to the class teacher; if the matter needs to be referred on, a Deputy Principal or Principal will be

involved so your child's needs can be addressed. Changing classes is not part of the Class Placement Policy.

Please be assured that all information about children is valued and heard. Teachers work hard to make the transition between years a smooth process for all our students. Parents can help by being as positive and encouraging as possible to their children in this process.

If you have any further questions on the class placement process, please contact the Deputy Principal responsible for your child's year level first.

Jo Morgan (Kindergarten to Year 2) Joanne.Morgan@education.wa.edu.au or

Milani Grace (Year 3 – 6) Milani.Grace@education.wa.edu.au

Thank you in advance for your support of our procedures.

Kim Fraser

Principal
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