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| bandwsmall Holly Park School  Class Composition Policy |

**1 Rationale**

* 1. The staff at Holly Park believe that mixing classes benefits the learning experiences of our

pupils

1.2 Mixing classes ensures that there are opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers

1.3 By mixing the classes, the school staff hope to enable greater social interaction between

children as they move through the school. This also benefits the wider community of

parents and allows them to integrate with each other more and get to know a wider circle

of people in the school which is also of benefit to the children ultimately.

1.4 Ultimately, the staff aim to promote a greater sense of community among their

learners

**2 Principles**

2.1 The school seeks to create classes which are equal in size and similar in composition across a given year group

2.2 The purpose of any class is to maximise learning opportunities

2.3 The changing nature of the classes and growing mobility within the school means that class

dynamics and composition change regularly and we want to do our best to maintain as

balanced classes as possible.

2.4 Ultimately, the classroom is a learning environment and not a social one. While the staff

want all children to be appropriately supportive and respectful to their classmates,

friendships are encouraged and nurtured in social contexts, namely playtimes and

lunchtimes.

2.5 The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of the children’s classteachers, the Families Co-ordinator, The SENCO, The Deputy Head and the

Headteacher

2.6 Any change made to the composition of the class will only be agreed if it is of more benefit than for the pupils to stay in their current class groups.

**3 Framework for class composition decisions**

3.1 The following factors form the core framework for deciding on class composition

* + - The ratio of boys to girls in each class
    - The spread of ability in all subjects
    - Positive relationships for learning
    - The variety, range and type of additional needs identified in the new class
    - The balance of Pupil Premium children in each class
    - The behaviour of children in each class

3.2 The school believe that best friends do not always make the best learning partners, and

therefore the classes are not split based on friendships. However, children are asked to

identify some friends they wish to be placed with – with the guarantee that they will

definitely have one of these friends.

3.3 External factors, such as safeguarding issues, may be additional factors considered to support vulnerable children. This is at the discretion of the Headteacher and Designated

Safeguarding Lead

3.4 Individual pupils’ needs are a factor in all considerations, and all staff involved must strike an appropriate balance between the needs of these pupils, and the needs of all of their peers

3.5 Parental requests are not part of the consideration framework, unless related to 3.3 above. Agreement with such requests is the decision of the Head teacher, and any decision

will be explained, in person where possible, to the parent concerned.

3.6 Where siblings are admitted into the same year group, the school will liaise with their

parents or carers with regard to placing the children together or in separate classes. The

final decision, however, will be the school.

**4 Planned points for reviewing class composition**

4.1 Key Worker groups are composed on entry to Reception, using the framework described in

paragraph 3 above.

4.2 The composition is reviewed at the end of the Reception year, and classes are created

ready for Year 1, again using the framework described in paragraph 3 above.

4.3 The composition is reviewed at the end of the Year 2, and classes are created

ready for Year 3, again using the framework described in paragraph 3 above.

4.4 The class composition is reviewed at the end of Year 4, and classes are reallocated ready for Year 5, again using the framework described in paragraph 3 above.

4.5 The school reserves the right to reallocate classes at the end of any academic year in any

year group in response to extenuating factors. This is the decision of the Headteacher.

**5 Procedures for composing classes**

5.1 Procedures for pupils starting in Reception:

5.1.1 The Lead Practitioner for the Early Years Foundation Stage will, where possible,

visit settings once places have been accepted. He or she will talk to key workers,

managers and other staff to gather information to support this process. They will

also get information from our own nursery staff.

5.1.2 All children new to our setting will receive a home visit

5.1.3 The children will be allowed to settle and initial observations and assessments will

be made.

5.1.4 The Reception staff will endeavour to ensure a good balance of behaviour, and a

range of educational, social and personal needs, gender and maturity are

represented in each Key Worker Group, based on the information gathered

5.1.5 SENCO will meet with the Reception staff to discuss any children as necessary

5.1.6 The Key Worker groups are shared with parents a few weeks into September

5.2 Procedures at any other point during a pupils’ time at the school:

5.2.1 Classteachers and Teaching Assistants will observe the children’s learning, effort, behaviour and attitudes at work and play throughout the year, and gather their observations together ahead of the classteachers meeting in June/July to reallocate

Classes

5.2.2 Parents will be informed at Meet the teacher meetings at the start of the year that

the class will be reallocated at theend of the year. A letter will be sent again at the

start of the Summer term to remind parents again that it will be happening. This

letter will suggest that any parents with any concerns come and meet the Families

Co-ordinator immediately.

5.2.2 Classteachers will meet in June/July to ensure a good balance of behaviour, and a

range of educational, social and personal needs, gender and maturity are

represented in each class. The families Co-ordinator, The SENCO and Deputy

Head will be involved in the class splitting in Y4 as by this stage they will have a

great deal of knowledge about children and families over the years

5.2.3 Once proposed new classes have been established, these new classes will be

trialled a few times and tweaks made as necessary.

5.2.3 The Families Co-ordinator, SENCO and The Deputy along with other teachers who

Have taught the children in previous years will look at the suggested new classes

and finalise groupings

5.2.4 The Senior management team will meet to give final approval to the proposed

classes

5.2.5 The new classes will be shared with parents and children in time for The Class

swap day.

**6 Moving individual children**

6.1 Unless there are very exceptional circumstances, a child will not be moved into another class during the course of the year. It is not our policy to move children from one class to

another apart from at the key points outlined in this policy during their time at the school,

unless there are extreme circumstances which generally involve the advice and input from

an outside agency giving us their support and professional opinion.

If there are problems with friendships, relationships etc within a class group we work with

the children and parents to overcome these problems. Moving class is not necessarily the

answer to such problems.

7 Grouping Across the Year Group

Occasionally, the school decides that it is necessary to group pupils for particular subjects

of lessons across the year group – e.g Y6 maths groups or comprehension groups. There

will be a clear rational for doing this. The groups will be flexible in as much as there will be

criteria for why pupils are in a particular group and on a half termly basis, teachers will

re-consider the groupings. The groupings will be decided to best provide for the needs of

the child and not parental perception of what being in a certain group may mean. This will

generally be based on academic ability and sometimes self-esteem will be considered. The

groupings will be decided by teachers and parental views may be considered but will not

determine the outcome. The best academic outcome for the child will be the deciding

factor.

**7 Supporting documents**

7.1 This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

* + - The Parent Code of Conduct
    - The Behaviour Policy
    - The Anti-bullying Policy
    - Teaching & learning Policy

**8 Monitoring**

8.1 It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to monitor the effective deployment of this policy. This has been delegated to the Headteacher.

8.2 This policy will be reviewed every year.

**Document Control**

**Revision History**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Version | Revision Date | Revised By | Revision |
| 1.0 | July 2019 | Ann Pelham | Policy created |
| 1.1 | Autumn 2019 | Full Govs | ratified |

**Signed by**

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| Headteacher | Ann Pelham |  |  |
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**Distribution**

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| * Staff via school server * Parents via Website * Governors via committee meetings |

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| Date for next review |
| Autumn 2020 |