



ROSSETT ACRE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Class-Mixing Policy

Name of School:	Rossett Acre Primary School
Member of staff responsible:	Head Teacher
Date of Policy:	February 2021
Review Date:	February 2024
Interim review - Dec 2022	

At Rossett Acre Primary School, we consulted parents/carers regarding their opinions on the mixing of classes in May 2015. The majority of parents who responded felt that classes should be kept in the same cohorts as they progress through school. Therefore, we aim to keep classes within year groups together throughout their time here, from Reception to Year 6. The mixing of classes within year groups (for example all classes being mixed annually or at the end of a Key Stage) will not become a matter of routine at present. However, members of the Senior Leadership Team have a duty to ensure an effective learning environment for all pupils, and thus they reserve the right to mix two classes within an individual year group as one of a collection of measures, if they deem this to be necessary.

Statement of intent:

We are committed to ensuring an effective learning environment for all pupils. The balance of pupil characteristics and needs in each class across a year group can have a profound effect on the progress and happiness of each individual. This policy has been put in place to ensure that we fulfil our commitment, within the limits of our resources, and to the best of our ability.

Aims:

- To ensure that classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer, transition between phases and year groups, and changes to individual needs within each class.
- To promote a greater sense of community in our large, two-form entry primary school, where this is identified as an issue in a year group.
- To enable improved social interaction and the development of social skills between different sets of pupils as they move up through the school, when necessary.
- To create opportunities for pupils to play and learn with a wide variety of peers.

Principles

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and the Head Teacher (whose decision is final).
- We always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions and strive to achieve a balance (see criteria below).
- We will be open and transparent about our criteria for class mixing, although we are bound to maintain confidentiality when discussing our reasons for decisions with parents and pupils.

Criteria

Classes in identified year groups will be mixed to achieve an effective balance according to the following criteria:

- Sex/Gender
- Educational, social and personal needs
- Maturity
- Friendships

Processes and Timescales

- SLT members regularly discuss the balance of classes with each class teacher during Pupil Progress Meetings and staff meetings. The initial aim will be to keep the classes as they are and explore other solutions if there is an imbalance.
- In year groups identified as in need of change (and this will be the exception rather than the norm), the Class Teacher and Teaching Assistants observe and discuss friendships and balance.
- For any identified year group, Class Teachers will meet with the SLT in early June, and draw up new class lists based on observations and the aforementioned criteria. Parents will be informed that mixing classes is likely to occur; the decision of the make-up of the classes remains a school decision.
- Children will spend some time in their new groups being taught. Teachers will report to SLT re: Are the new groups effective? Also, to check if any further amendments need to be made and to make a final decision as to whether we should mix the classes.
- Class lists are finalised and approved by the Head Teacher, and the mixing of the year group and the new class lists are communicated to parents and children as part of end of year arrangements.

Review

The Head Teacher will review the criteria and process for mixing at regular intervals, including at the beginning of every Summer Term and make changes if necessary.

