

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When are classes formed?

A. Generally speaking classes are formed before the end of the summer term. In exceptional circumstances, changes may occur due to changes in school roll.



Q. When will I know which class my child will be in?

A. Headteachers will advise parents and pupils of this as soon as possible.

Q. What if the school roll increases?

A. If children move into the catchment area of the school mid-session and there is no space for them within the appropriate class, they will be offered a place at the nearest available school until classes can be reorganised at the next natural break (e.g. start of a new term).

Q. What about pupils who wish to attend a school outwith the catchment area?

A. These pupils will only be accommodated if the school has the capacity to take them and there is space within the appropriate class.

Q. Why aren't composite classes just organised by age?

A. Using age alone may not best meet the needs of individual pupils.



Q. Will my child remain in the same class group through-out their school year?

A. Not necessarily. Schools constantly monitor and track pupils' learning and progress. Decisions will be made throughout the year to ensure the best outcome for each child as they progress in their learning. This ensures continuous improvement and challenge for all. Changes to classes normally occur at the next natural break (e.g. start of a new term).

Q. Will my child remain in the same learning groups throughout their school year?

A. Probably not. Schools constantly monitor and track pupils' learning and progress. Decisions will be made throughout the year to ensure the best outcome for each child as they progress in their learning. This ensures continuous improvement and challenge for all. Changes to learning groups occur at regular intervals.



Q. My child is in a multi-stage composite school and is currently in P4. There's a P1-P4 and a P4-P7 in the school. Why is my child in the P1-4?

A. The decision made will have been based on the following factors (Learning needs, Gender balance, Siblings, Age)

**For further information
please contact your child's
Headteacher.**

Primary School CLASS ORGANISATION

February 2013



Within education our clear purpose is to bring about success for all our young people through raising levels of achievement, attainment and participation.

Class Sizes

Scottish Government guidelines state that no single class should exceed:

Primary 1 **25**

Primary 2 to Primary 3 **30**

(Although Dumfries and Galloway Council aims to achieve class sizes of 25 or under in Primary 2 and Primary 3)

Primary 4 to Primary 7 **33**

Composite classes **25
(max)**

(Composite classes are made up of children from two or more year groups)

Learning Experiences

Learning in Primary Schools is based on the principles of Curriculum for Excellence. This means that schools provide a broad general education designed to meet the needs of all learners and ensure challenge and progression.

Schools promote flexible and creative approaches to meet the needs of all pupils. Learning takes place in various ways and places using different groupings and processes such as whole class, group and individual activities.

Although schools are structured in classes, learning is generally organised in groups. These groups may be within classes or across classes and may be based on interests, aptitudes or the need to support or challenge pupils.

Teachers constantly monitor learning needs and make decisions about pupil groupings accordingly.



Allocating children to classes

For organisational purposes, schools are structured into classes. Each year it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to organise the class structure. Any decisions will be determined by the total school roll, the number of teachers allocated to the school, the physical capacity of the learning and teaching areas and any need to accommodate specialist equipment and mobility aids.

Class structures may consist of composite or single stage. Children will be placed in composite classes with consideration given to a number of factors:

- Learning needs
- Gender balance
- Siblings
- Age

Education Services will support any decision made by the Headteacher following this criteria. In most cases single stage classes will be determined by age.

If parents are unhappy with the class organisation they should speak with the Headteacher in the first instance.

