



# Spotlight on Composite Classes



## What is a composite class?

A composite class is defined to be a class in which there are pupils at more than one stage of the primary school. In most cases, a composite class will comprise of pupils at only two stages e.g. P.4 + P.5 = P.4/5 but it is possible, that a composite class could contain pupils from three or more stages.

## Why are composite classes formed?

Composite classes are formed because of the way in which the pupil roll is configured in any given year. Composite classes are formed to make efficient use of teaching staff in a school. The number of teachers in a primary school is based on the number of children on the total school roll, not on the number in any single year group.

## More Information

### **If a composite class has to be formed, how are decisions taken about which children should be allocated to which class?**

The Head Teacher, in consultation with staff, will form classes using their professional judgement taking account of a range of criteria to best meet the educational, social and emotional needs of children.

### **Will my child be held back if she/he is in a composite class?**

**Definitely not!** The ways in which learning and teaching are organised in primary schools means that work is tailored to the needs and current achievement levels of individual pupils. Much work is undertaken in small groups and it is at least as easy to form groups with similar existing achievement levels in a composite class as it is in a non-composite class.

Furthermore, we will plan the educational experience for pupils classes in ways which ensure progression and continuity.

### **Will forming a composite class mean that my child's friendship grouping is being broken up.**

This may be the case, although care is taken in allocating pupils to classes that their social needs are not ignored, in general terms it is likely to be good for children to experience classes with different classmates so that their circle of friends and acquaintances can be extended.

## Promoting Good Working Relationships

You should be assured that all teachers will be sensitive to the social and emotional needs of children in their classes and will be encouraging members of the class to develop good working relationships with each other. There will be many opportunities for your child to continue to be involved with his or her whole year group including a range of curricular and social activities.

