

# ***A guide to composite classes in Crookfur Primary School***



**Learning, Caring and Working Together To Be All We Can Be**



## General Information

### What is a composite class?

A composite class occurs when children from two (or more) primary stages are grouped together to form one register class.

### Why are composite classes formed?

Schools are staffed based on the total number of children across all years, however numbers of children at each year stage will vary.

In line with statutory requirements the maximum class size in P1 is 25, P2—3 is 30 and 33 in P4-7. The maximum number of children in any composite class is 25.

Composite classes may be planned when the number of children at a single stage is greater than the national statutory maxima (i.e. exceed 25 at P1, 30 at P2-3 or 33 at P4-7). This can also occur when the total number of children at a stage is very small.

## Class Formation

In Crookfur Primary, a number of factors are considered when forming a composite class. These include but are not limited to:

- The need for continuous, progressive education which will build on the attainment and achievement of all children
- Learning and support needs of all children
- The class size maxima at each stage of the school
- Effective use of resources including staffing and accommodation
- Social factors which will support a child's continuous development, e.g. close friendships

The Head Teacher will consult with class teachers about the successful groupings of pupils. If appropriate children may be asked to indicate a friend they would like to be in a class. However, the need to ensure progression in learning, achievement and attainment is the major consideration in deciding class formation.

In Crookfur Primary our composite classes will normally be formed on the basis of language and/or mathematics working groups within their own stage. This means that children working at broadly the same pace and level in language and/or mathematics are grouped together.



## **Your child in a composite class...**

Some children are never part of a composite class whilst others never experience anything else.

School staff will ensure that your child will always work within a programme appropriate for his/her age, ability and aptitude. At both school and education authority level, assessment procedures exist to ensure that your child makes appropriate progress in line with expectations.

National Guidelines on the curriculum indicate that children progress in learning tailored to fit their personal level of attainment. This means that children in all classes will follow programmes designed to help them progress at their own level. This applies to all children regardless of whether or not they are in a composite or single year stage class.

We will make every effort to involve children of any one year group in activities which bring the whole year group together. In this way children will be able to continue to identify with children of the same age, especially at important times such as transfer to secondary school. At the same time the school will also try to ensure that the natural identity of each primary class group is maintained.

## **When will composite classes be formed?**

Normally such classes will be formed before the start of a new school year so that all involved know what class structures exist for the new school session.

In certain circumstances class restructuring may have to take place during the summer break or after the session has started. However, such occurrences will be very exceptional.

## **Consultation**

The Head Teacher will consult with school stakeholders to agree on the criteria on which the formation of composite classes will be based.

Information about the formation of composite classes and the school policy will also be made available for parents/carers via the school website.

The Parent Council will be kept informed of ongoing developments in relation to the formation of classes.

Parents and carers will be informed of the likely re-classification of classes at the earliest possible opportunity. This will usually take place in the summer term, however there may be rare occasions when a re-classification of classes has to take place at the start or mid-term, for example where the roll of a school has markedly risen or decreased during the school year.

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss this process further, please contact the school.



## Frequently Asked Questions

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

No. Our curriculum and assessment guidelines provide a framework for pupil centred learning and all children experience a curriculum suited to their age, ability and stage.

### **Will my child always be in a composite class?**

Not necessarily. The need for composite classes changes as the roll of the school fluctuates. Our guidelines recommend that the formation of composite classes is reviewed each year.

### **Will my child be able to mix with the rest of his/her stage?**

Yes. Our staff will timetable opportunities across the curriculum which will enable all pupils of one stage to have time together.

### **How will my child be taught in a composite class?**

Teachers will ensure that all children work within programmes suitable for their age, aptitude and ability. Your child will not be 'held back' or 'struggle to keep up' in any class.

*Whether your child is in a single stage class or a composite class you can be confident that the staff in the school are skilled in providing appropriate teaching and learning opportunities for all children. All our teachers are trained to work with children who have a range of abilities across all ages in the primary school. In all primary classes children will learn in different ways, responding to a variety of methods and resources. Our teachers are well equipped to adapt to the different needs within any class and plan accordingly.*

If you would like to find out more about composite classes in Crookfur Primary, please contact a member of the leadership team.

Phone number: **0141 570 7120**

Email: [SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

We would be happy aspect of composite classes with you further.

