

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. Each child will progress at their level of ability regardless of class structure. Every child across the school completes regular class assessments to inform progress and pace of progress.

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. Children in the same year group will also mix during break time and lunch time.

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.
- All our teachers are trained to work with mixed ability classes whether in a single year group or in a composite class. In all primary classes there are wide ranges of abilities and all children will learn in different ways, responding to a variety of methods and resources. Our teachers are well able to adapt to the different needs within any class and plan accordingly.
- There is no evidence to support the view that pupils in composite classes perform either above or below that of pupils in single-stage classes. There is however some [evidence](#) to show that pupils in composite classes gain socially from the experience of a composite class.

Parents and carers who wish more information can also search publications on the Scottish Government's website.

Eaglesham Primary School



A Guide for Parents on Composite Classes

What is a Composite Class

Primary Schools have pupils at seven broad year stages, Primary 1 to Primary 7. A year stage is defined as a group of children entering primary education at a common date. Composite classes are those where children of more than one year stage are grouped together to form a class.

Your Child at Eaglesham Primary School

You should be confident that the professionalism of the staff in this school 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 is making good progress within the nationally agreed curriculum guidelines. National guidelines on the curriculum indicate that children should proceed through learning experiences 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. In addition the school will make every effort to involve children of any one year group in activities which bring the whole year group together e.g. school shows or short term projects. 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.

Why Are Composite Classes Formed?

Schools are staffed to agreed standards based on the total number of children however, the numbers of children at each year stage will vary. This means that the Head Teacher will be required to take management decisions to organise classes to make best use of staff, resources and space.

Balancing up these various factors involves both educational and organisational considerations. A composite class may be formed in a variety of situations including:

- a small number of children at a particular stage in the school cannot be accommodated within class size limits
- it is possible to combine children from two or more stages, as the numbers at these stages is not high enough to justify forming separate classes
- it is necessary to combine children from two or more stages in order to be able to educate all of the children within the resource allocation of the school.

How Are Composite Classes Formed

In line with the Teachers' Contract and the statutory requirements the maximum class size in Pr. 1 is 25 and P2—3 is 30 and in Pr. 4—7 it is 33. The maximum number of pupils in any composite class is 25. The Head Teacher will structure classes based on advice given by the education authority.

In Eaglesham Primary School our composite classes will be formed on the basis of literacy and/or mathematics working groups. This means that children working at broadly the same pace and level in literacy and/or mathematics are grouped together. Such an arrangement will make for the most efficient use of teaching resources.

When Will a Composite Class 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.