

What if I have concerns about my child being separated from their friends through changes in class allocations?

Most children, and particularly young children, make new friends quickly and cope well with change.

Your school will usually provide opportunities for children to mix and work together within year groups, ranging from informal contacts in the playground to team games, setting and shared learning activities.

This is consistent with the Curriculum for Excellence's health and wellbeing aims of increasing social skills.

If you're still concerned, speak to your class teacher.

How can I find out more about the decisions made in our school?

Your head teacher will explain how decisions are made in your child's school. He/she will meet with you, if necessary, to discuss your specific concerns. You might like to consider joining the Parent Council – ask your school about this.



How can I find out about my child's progress?

Teachers follow national guidelines on the Curriculum for Excellence for ages 3 to 18.

Your child's teacher will help you understand the work your child is doing, whether they are in a composite or single stage class.

You will get regular information about your child's progress. This will include details of levels achieved in areas of the curriculum, of targets set and the plan for the next steps of their learning.



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Education & Children's Services

Composite classes

what it means for your child...



What are composite classes?

Composite classes have children from more than one year group in them. A P5/6 composite class, for example, would contain some children from P5 and P6.

In smaller schools there may be children from three or more year groups in one class.

How many are there?

Each year there are around 1,200 classes in Fife primary schools. About 400 of these are composite classes.

Why are composite classes needed?

We want to give children the right learning opportunities. They need the opportunity to form suitable working groups.

We also need to make sure every school makes the best use of its resources.

We allocate teachers based on the total number of children in the school. Our head teachers then organise classes taking account of:

- the number of teachers
- national guidelines on class size.

How it works

- A school has 18 children in P5 and 36 in P6.
- As national agreements don't allow a class of 36 children the head teacher may create:
 - a composite class of, 24 children (18 P5 and 6 P6 in a P5/6 class) with one teacher;
 - a class of 30 P6 children with a different teacher.

What size are composite classes? How does this compare to other classes?

The maximum composite class size is 25. This compares favourably to maximum single class sizes of:

- 33 children in P4-7
- 30 children in P2 and P3.
- 25 children in P1.

Will my child progress at the same rate in a composite class, as in a single stage class?

Yes, we're committed to excellence for all. We make sure children in composite classes have the right opportunities for learning, so they reach their full potential.

Even in single stage classes there will be a range of ages, needs and aptitudes. Our teachers support them all. The smaller size of composite classes can help make sure each child receives the support they need.

Do children in composite classes perform as well as those in single stage classes?

Yes. There is no evidence that composite classes are detrimental to a child's education.

Who decides on classes?

Head teachers decide how classes are formed in their schools. They take account of local circumstances and the guidance provided by the council's Education and Children's Services Directorate.

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

Around two weeks before the end of the summer term, your head teacher will write and let you know your child's new class and teacher.

Please note that your child's class could change if the number of children or teachers in the school changes.

Once the school term has begun your child may still be moved. This would only happen if your head teacher thought there was a good reason to do it.

How are children allocated to classes?

Our schools use school policy to allocate children to classes fairly and consistently. We normally use age to select a group of children in a composite class.

However, head teachers may consider other things that are important for the school. For example, it may be important to have a balance between boys and girls in a class or to make arrangements to help a child with additional support needs.

Your head teacher will discuss forming composite classes with you if other criteria are being used.

