Sandaig Primary School – Primary 1 Buddy Programme

Welcome to Primary 1 at Sandaig!

Starting school is an exciting time, and our Buddy Programme helps make the transition as smooth and happy as possible for every child. Each Primary 1 pupil is paired with an older pupil from a different year group (usually P7) who supports them in learning school routines, making friends, working out how to use the dining hall etc, and feeling part of the Sandaig community.

**Our Buddy Policy**

* Every P1 pupil is paired with an older pupil from a different year group.
* Siblings are not paired together.
* Buddy pairings are decided by the school to ensure fairness and best outcomes for all pupils. (we work closely with our partner nurseries to ensure we get it right for every child)

**Why We Don’t Pair Siblings**

Research and experience show that pairing siblings can limit the benefits of the programme. Our reasons are:

1. Encourages independence – Helps children develop confidence and problem-solving skills without relying on a sibling.
2. Builds wider friendships – Supports P1s to make new friends across the school community.
3. Supports the older buddy’s role – Allows older buddies to focus on mentoring without the emotional difficulties of sibling relationships.
4. Ensures fairness for all – The same rule applies to all families, avoiding perceptions of special treatment.
5. Reduces dependency and conflict – Prevents over-reliance and avoids sibling tensions carrying over into school.

FAQ

Q: My child really wants their sibling as a buddy – can we make an exception?

A: We understand siblings care deeply for each other, but we apply the same policy for every family to ensure fairness and consistency.

Q: Has this worked well before?

A: Yes – our experience shows children settle in quickly, make new friends, and gain confidence when paired with a non-sibling buddy.

Q: Will siblings still see each other at school?

A: Absolutely! Siblings see each other at break times, lunch, assemblies, and around the school. The buddy arrangement simply means their main settling-in support comes from another trained pupil.

We thank you for supporting this policy, which helps all children thrive in their first year at Sandaig Primary.

Susan Clark

Head Teacher

Sandaig Primary School