

Kildrum Primary School



Parent Guide

Composite Classes

Updated June 2018

This guide explains what composite classes are, how they are formed and how they affect your child's education.



What is a composite class?

Primary schools have pupils at seven broad year stages: Primary 1 through to Primary 7. A year stage is defined as a group of pupils entering primary education at the same time.

Composite classes are those where two or more stages are grouped together to form a class.

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, after a school session has started or, in very exceptional circumstances, at any point during the year.

How are composite classes formed?

According to the teachers' contract the maximum number of pupils in a single year stage is:

- Primary 1 – 25 pupils
- Primaries 2 and 3 – 30 pupils
- Primaries 4 to 7 – 33 pupils

The maximum number of pupils in any composite class is 25, this is to minimise organisational demands.

Each June our senior leadership team will structure classes based on advice given by the education authority and information from class teachers.

In North Lanarkshire composite classes are normally formed on the basis of Literacy and/or Numeracy working groups. This means that pupils working at broadly the same pace and level in Literacy and/or Numeracy are grouped together. Such an arrangement will make for the most efficient use of teaching resources. Being in the younger stage in a composite class does not mean that your child is being “held back”. Each child will work at their own level.



Your child in a composite class

Some children are never part of a composite class whilst others never experience anything else. The professionalism of the staff in Kildrum Primary ensures that your child is working within a programme appropriate for his/her age, ability and aptitude. Monitoring of this takes place at school level, at education authority level and by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe). This ensures that your child is making good progress within Curriculum for Excellence, whatever class he/she is in.

Curriculum for Excellence entitles all pupils to progress through learning experiences and outcomes to fit their personal level of attainment. This means that pupils in all classes will follow programmes constructed to help them progress at their own level. This applies to all pupils, regardless of whether or not they are in a composite or single year class.

In addition, in Kildrum Primary School we will make every effort to involve pupils of any one year group in activities which bring the whole year group together e.g. trips, enterprise activities, playground arrangements etc. In this way pupils will be able to continue to identify with children of the same age especially at important times such as transfer to secondary school.

Consultation with parents

Parents will be kept informed of the arrangements for annual class structuring. Criteria for class formation is intimated in the school handbook.

If you are concerned about any decisions, a member of the management team will be happy to meet with you to answer any questions regarding class formation.

