



**Kilbarchan Primary School**  
**Class Structures for Session 2021/2022**  
**3 June 2021**



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Introduction**

I know many families have questions about the ways in which classes are structured each year. With this in mind we decided to put together an overview of how it works so that you had the information prior to notification of classes for next session.

### **How are classes within a school organised?**

Schools are staffed to agreed standards based on the total number of pupils within the school regardless of the numbers of pupils at each year stage. Maximum class sizes are 25 for Primary 1, 30 for Primaries 2 and P3, and 33 for Primaries 4-7. When numbers are very small or slightly higher in any year group, composite classes may be formed.

### **What is a composite class?**

A composite class is one which contains more than one year group e.g. Primary 4/3. It will have no more than 25 pupils within it.

### **How are the decisions made?**

The head teacher is responsible for structuring classes based on advice given by the council. When a composite class is formed, the head teacher will speak to the relevant class teachers and use the criteria outlined by the authority which require that we consider the following:

- Existing language groupings or existing working levels
- Attainment levels
- Evidence of child's work
- Consideration of Additional Support Needs
- Wellbeing of pupils

### **How does a composite class work at Kilbarchan Primary?**

A composite class works in the same way as any other class. In every class, the teacher will plan for pupils based on assessment information and working levels and will identify the steps required to help each child make progress through the Curriculum for Excellence. We do not have one programme of work for all pupils of a particular age or stage. Each child is unique, with a unique set of skills and our teachers plan activities with this in mind.

This will mean that in every class, whether composite or not, there will be a number of groups working at different levels, on different tasks and in different ways. The teacher will prepare tasks and activities that support and challenge every child in the class. In our school, you may sometimes hear children talking about 'Chilli Challenge'! This is because we often refer to the range of challenges in class as mild, spicy or hot tasks.

### **Social Interactions**

We appreciate that some families may be concerned about their child missing out on social interactions with their peers. To minimise this, we make every effort to design activities which bring the whole year group together at points throughout the year. We do however recognise that such plans have not been possible this year due to health and safety restrictions. These activities help our pupils 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 ensures that the natural identity of each primary class group is maintained.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*My child is in Primary 7 in a Primary 7/6 class, does this mean they are working on Primary 6 tasks?*

No, your child will be working on tasks suitable to their level of ability.

*How do you know you are getting it right for my child?*

Class teachers meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team each term. At these Excellence and Equity meetings, the progress of each and every child in the class is discussed in detail. This ensures that we have shared high expectations across all classes and stages.

*I have questions; can I speak to someone about them?*

Absolutely yes! Please email/call the school where a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be happy to discuss things further.

I hope that you find this letter helpful and informative.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona MacKenzie  
Head Teacher