

Classes for Next Session - **composite classes**

As with the majority of schools across Renfrewshire, we will be running with some **composite classes** next session – something which is unavoidable due to our staffing allocation. I realise that some of you may be anxious about your child being placed in a composite class, but please be assured, as many parents realised this year, that your child's progress is not hindered at all and in some cases can actually be advantageous, with self esteem and confidence being enhanced. We take care and put a lot of thought into organising classes and I have outlined below Renfrewshire's guidelines for your information. I hope this is helpful and informative but should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Structure of Classes

- Primary schools have pupils at 7 broad year stages. P1 – P7. A year stage is a group of pupils entering primary education at a common date.
- Pupils are organised within single year classes e.g. Primary 3 or in composite classes, e.g. Primary 3/4 which contain more than one year group.
- 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. This means that Head Teachers need to organise classes to make best use of available staff, resources and space. Balancing up the various factors involves both educational and organisational considerations.
- Renfrewshire Council's normal maximum number of pupils in a single year class is 25 for P1 and P2, 30 for P3, 33 for P4-P7 and the maximum number of pupils in a composite class is 25.
- The Head Teacher is responsible for structuring classes on the basis of advice given by the council.
- In all classes, pupils working at broadly the same place and level in language and/or mathematics are grouped together. This arrangement uses teaching resources most effectively and supports continuity for pupils.

Selection of Pupils

- Where a composite class is being formed, specific criteria have been provided by the council.
- In forming new classes, full account must be taken of existing successful groupings of pupils. Schools should use language and/or mathematics groupings as the basis for allocating children to classes. Within this broad guideline a language or mathematics working group could be described as:

“A number of pupils with broadly the same attainment levels who show the capacity for working well as learning group”

- Where a single year class and a composite class are being formed at the same stages, the head teacher, class teacher and, where appropriate, pre-five colleagues, will make use of their professional judgement and all available information to form the two classes.

Communication

- Normally, 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 a school session has started.
- Parents will be informed of the arrangements for annual class structuring arrangements, as soon as possible
- The head teacher will be happy to meet with you to answer any questions on class structure or any other matter.

Please note that your child's class and class teacher, for next session, will be issued towards the end of June and your child will have the opportunity to work with their new teacher before school stops for the holidays.

Mr G Maclean, Headteacher

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