



Composite Class Information for Parents



We hope you find the information in this leaflet helpful. We have created this leaflet in conjunction with parents whose children have been in composite classes.

STRUCTURE OF CLASSES

- Primary schools have pupils at 7 broad year stages, primary 1 to primary 7. 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.
- 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 classes need to be organised to make best use of available staff, resources, and space. Balancing up the various factors involves both educational and organisational considerations. In all classes pupils working at broadly the pace and level in language and/or mathematics are grouped together. This arrangement uses teaching resources most effectively.
- Renfrewshire Council's normal maximum number of children in a single year class is 25 for P1, 30 for P2 & P3, 33 for P4-7 and the maximum number of pupils in a composite class is 25.
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SELECTION OF PUPILS

- When 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 groupings of pupils. School should use literacy and/or numeracy groupings as the basis for allocating children to classes. Within this broad guideline a literacy or numeracy working group could be described as: "A number of pupils of broadly the same attainment who show the capacity of working well as a learning group"
- Where a single year Primary 1 class and a composite Primary 1/2 class are being formed, the Head Teacher, Primary 1 class teacher and pre-5 colleagues will make use of their professional judgement and all available information to form the two classes.
- Children in composite classes are not being kept behind or punished. The criteria above for forming composite classes is strictly adhered to and the wellbeing of all children is considered.
- At assembly and in class, we will explain to children about composite classes so that they do not feel that they are being penalised by being in a composite class.





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

IN CONCLUSION

- You should be confident that the professionalism of staff in our school will ensure that your child will always work within a programme appropriate to their age, ability and aptitude. At both school level and education authority level quality assurance procedures exist to ensure that your child is making good progress within the nationally agreed curriculum guidelines.
- The national guidelines on the curriculum indicate that pupils should proceed through learning experiences tailored to fit their personal level of attainment. This means that pupils in all classes will follow programmes constructed to help them progress from their own level.
- The school makes every effort to involve pupils in any one-year group in activities which bring the whole year group together. In this way pupils are able 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.

