

Clan Allocation

The continued development of Calderwood means that our school roll will continue to grow over the next years. As a result of this our classing structure is decided for us by pupil placement at West Lothian Council to ensure we keep adequate spaces at each stage to accommodate growth.

At Calderwood Primary our classes are known as clans. In cases where there are more than one clan within a stage or a composite clan we will use the

West Lothian Criteria when creating clan groupings:

- Date of birth
- Gender mix
- Academic ability
- Personal and social development

You can find a copy of the [policy here](#).

We use information from their current nursery/primary champion or previous setting to support with allocating clans.

Calderwood Clusters

Our clans will be arranged in clusters. Across these clusters champions will plan together to ensure consistent, progressive approaches to learning, teaching and assessment. This ensures that we support and challenge our children.

Clans with similar learning interests may take part in an interdisciplinary learning experience together.

There will be planned learning opportunities for children within a stage to learn together. Children within a stage will also have the opportunity to play together at break and lunch times.

Composite Clans

Background

Schools are given a staffing allocation dependent on the total school roll. Currently, government and local policy have set a maximum pupil number for single year stage classes of:

- 25 in Primary 1
- 30 in Primaries 2 and 3
- 33 in Primaries 4-7

There is an agreement of a **maximum composite class size of 25 pupils**. If the numbers in year groups across school vary considerably it is often not possible to create single year stage classes.

Formation of classes

A composite class is a class organisation where children of two or more stages are grouped together.

Learning and Teaching

Class teachers have professional expertise in teaching classes with a wide range of abilities and therefore your child's education will not be disadvantaged through being taught in a composite class. Teachers group children of similar ability in a number of areas for learning and teaching purposes e.g. reading, writing and mathematics. Teachers will adapt their teaching methods and approaches appropriately whatever the class organisation may be.

In a composite class, children will not experience repetitive work. Class teachers will plan topics which are new for all of their pupils and children will be working at different ability levels. Differentiated programmes will be provided wherever appropriate.

Your child will meet and interact with his/her friends at playtimes, and often during class times. There will also be some opportunities for children to participate in activities particular to their year groups.



Will my child continue in this class throughout Primary School

Not necessarily – school rolls go up and down and government policies change – classes are re-organised every year and pupils will always be placed in the most appropriate class available.

How will I be sure my child is settled into class and receives the education they need?

Being in a composite class is no different from the point of view of the child. All children are treated as individuals and teachers are very skilled at meeting learning needs within a wide range of abilities and needs – in straight or composite classes.

Will my child have a different learning experience?

No – teachers have always worked with broad ranges of abilities and needs and group children with similar abilities. Composite classes are no different.

Can I refuse to have my child taught in a composite class?

No. The management of class organisation in school is the responsibility of the Head Teacher. Schools consult regularly with parents regarding children's progress and will communicate with you if there are any specific concerns.