



## **Background**

Class sizes in Scottish primary schools are set by government regulation as follows:

P1 – 25, P2 – 30 P3 – 30, P4 – P7 – 33

Schools aim to deliver a high-quality education, whilst making efficient use of resources. Schools must put in place a class organisation that supports these two objectives, and this may include forming composite classes, which have existed in Scottish schools since schools were established.

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

Composite classes are where children from two or more stages are grouped together and can be found in schools of all sizes. In small schools multi-stage composites are common. Composite classes have a class size maximum of 25.

## **How are composite classes formed?**

The Head Teacher carefully organises composite classes to ensure every child has the best possible learning experience. When forming classes, we consider children's health and wellbeing, their friendships, age, gender balance, and their progress in learning. By taking all of these factors into account, we aim to create positive, supportive and well-balanced classes where every pupil can thrive.

## **When will I be informed if my child is to be in a composite class?**

The head teacher will inform you as to the class your child will be in as soon as he/she has finalized the class organisation for the school. Normally this would be in mid June, however, circumstances may arise where the head teacher will have to adjust the class organisation to accommodate an unexpected intake of pupils.

## **Will my child have a different learning experience through being taught in a composite class?**

No. Children in composite classes receive the same high-quality learning as those in single-stage classes. Teachers plan lessons to suit a range of abilities in every class, so your child will continue to be supported and challenged just as they would anywhere else.

## **If my child is placed in a composite class will he/she continue in that class throughout his/her primary school education?**

A child placed in any class will not necessarily progress through school with the same group of pupils, as the class organisation may change. This can result from pupil numbers changing at particular stages, or from the different maximum class sizes that can be formed at different stages.

## **If my child is placed in a composite class will there be opportunities for my child to continue to work and socialise with the friends he/she has established at previous stages within the school?**

Yes. Children in the same year group will have regular chances to learn and play together, even if they are in different classes. We want them to feel part of the whole school community, so they will take part in shared activities such as mixed-group learning, leadership opportunities, school trips, expressive arts events and a range of after-school clubs.

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

No. The management of class organisation in schools is the responsibility of the head teacher. Head teachers consult regularly with parents regarding their children's progress. Where there are specific concerns about a child's learning or progress, schools have systems for consulting or communicating with individual parents on a more frequent basis.