



Policy on Mixing of Classes

DRAFT

Created/Revised:	June 2022
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Review Details:	
Review Date:	June 2023
Approved by Governing Body:	

Introduction

This policy was the product of whole staff collaboration in tandem with the Governing Body.

Rationale

In the interest of providing the best all round education for all our students' classes are mixed at Hartburn each year. The decision of how to mix classes lies ultimately with the Head of school and staff.

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide a framework for the mixing of classes.
- To outline the criteria by which classes are selected and the factors that may result in classes of a same standard being regrouped.

Criteria

Classes will be mixed:

- To ensure that there is gender balance.
- To ensure an equal distribution of Special Educational Needs and mixed ability pupils in each class.
- When there is a need to improve dynamics within a class based on social, emotional or behavioural considerations.
- To provide adequate Special Educational Needs support to ensure access to those who need it, taking staffing allocations into account.
- To develop the skills of forming new friendships and to prepare pupils for secondary school where they will have to deal on a daily basis with being part of changing groups of pupils throughout the school day.

Management of the mixing of classes

Parents will be informed in July in each year which classes their child/children will be in for the coming year.

When dividing the children, cognizance will be taken of the above criteria to ensure that the needs of all the children are met.

The Head of School will meet with the class teachers, relevant support staff and if necessary previous class teachers in early May initially to discuss and decide on how to regroup the children in each cohort on a needs basis and then to decide on the grouping of pupils.

Consultation

Each year, children and parents will be consulted in the summer term to select 3 friends who they wish to be placed with in September which helps inform the mixing of classes. Children will be placed with at least 1 year group friend in their registration class.

Mixed Year Group Classes

Due to a published admission number (PAN) of 75, Hartburn operates two year group classes of 30 children and a mixed class. This mixed class comprises of 15 children of the year group and 15 of the next year group, for example, 15 x Y3 children and 15x Y4 children in the Y3/4 mixed class.

The children at Hartburn get lots of opportunities to mix, learn and socialise as a year group. Maths and English is taught in streamed year group ability groups and other curriculum subjects are taught in registration classes through a cyclical approach which details year group

specific objectives; children will receive the appropriate year group curriculum. Therefore, there is no disadvantage to being in the mixed class.