

# CLASS PLACEMENT / MIXING POLICY

**Review:** March 2026

**Ratified by the Board:** March 2026

**Authors:** SS Headteacher | JS Headteacher

**Date of next review:** June 2027

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

At The Junior and Senior School, we believe that periodically mixing student groups helps foster a diverse and inclusive learning environment. Our Class Mixing Policy aims to support students' social and academic development by promoting new friendships, encouraging collaboration, and balancing class dynamics. This process is thoughtfully managed by taking into account each child's well-being, academic progress, and social interactions, ensuring that all students benefit from a positive classroom experience.

## 2. AIM

The aim of this School policy is to:

- Create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers.
- Develop the life-long social skill of forming new friendships.
- Enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school.
- Ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer and transition during phases in relation to gender, academic ability, ethnicity and home language.
- Promote a greater sense of community in a large predominantly four-form entry primary school.
- Create opportunities for children to adapt, build resilience and have a wider range of experiences in order to better face a fast-changing world and be able to cope with change.

## 3. PRINCIPLES

- The arrangements for class placement on entry to the school are based on knowledge of the individual child i.e. information from initial interview, report from previous school and parent meetings during the admissions process.
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes.
- The arrangements for class placement are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, Learning Support Assistants, Specialist Teachers, Year Group Leaders, Registrar and Admissions (where appropriate), the Assistant Heads and the Headteacher.
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions.
- We will communicate the criteria for class mixing in an open and transparent way.
- Children will not be asked to nominate friendship groups or individual friends as this puts pressure on them.
- The School reserves the right to move any child from one class to another at any time if staff consider this is in the best interest of the child and his/her peers.
- The School reserves the right to mix any class in any year group at any time, as they see fit. In the event that the School decides to proceed with a class mixing in EY2, EY3, Y1, Y2, Y4 or Y5 then In addition the Ministry of Education will be informed.

## 4. THE PROCESS

- On entry to the school, Early Years children tend to be placed in classes with other children from their previous nurseries.
- The children are mixed at the end of Reception, Year 3 and Year 6 (end of Key Stage Two)

- Reception, Year 3 and Year 6 Class Teachers, Learning Support Assistants and Specialist Teachers observe the children's friendships at work and play to inform their decision-making process.
- A form is completed by parents who wish to inform the school of any social and emotional issues that the School needs to be made aware of. However, the School is not obliged to accept individual requests from parents as they will consider the needs of the whole year group.
- In the class placement process, the Assistant Heads, Year Group Leader, Registrar and Admissions and Headteacher meet to ensure a good balance of gender, ethnicity and home language spoken.
- In the class mixing process, Class Teachers meet to ensure a good balance of friendships, range of educational, social and personal needs, gender and maturity are represented in each class
- Specialist teachers, Assistant Heads and Headteacher meet with Class Teachers to discuss and finalise groupings.
- Principal and School Leadership Team meet and approve classes.
- New Classes are shared with parents and children in June at the Junior School and Year 6 children transferring to Year 7 at Senior School will be informed on their first day at the Senior School.

## 5. CRITERIA FOR CLASS MIXING

Classes will be mixed to achieve a good balance according to the following criteria:

- Gender – the ratio of girls to boys.
- Range of educational, social and personal needs.
- Ethnicity and home language.
- Level of maturity.
- Friendships.
- Academic ability (this is difficult to ascertain at Early Years and Reception level).
- Specialist requirements e.g. twins, triplets.

A supportive and positive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome for all new groups.

## 6. REVIEW

The School Leadership Team and Principal will review the process and criteria for each year's class mixing arrangements at the beginning of each Summer Term ahead of the following year's class mixing.

The School reserves the right to mix any class in any year group at any time, as they see fit and the Principal has the final decision in such matters.

**END**