



# **Mixed-Age Class Policy**

## 1. Requirements

### 1.1 Change Record

Issue	Date	Author	Description
0.1	11th March 2019	L Perkins	Draft for discussion
1.0	March 2019	L Perkins	Ratified by FGB
1.1	June 2020	L Perkins / P Atkin	Update for 2020/21 school year
2.0	10 June 2020	L Perkins / P Atkin	Ratified by Standards Committee

Note: All issues except those of the form 'X.0' are draft.

### 1.2 Equality Statement

In developing and reviewing this policy we have carefully considered its impact on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

### 1.3 Approval and Review

This policy was approved by the Standards Committee on 10/6/2020. It is due for review in the Spring Term 2021.

## 2. Background

At Fowlmere Primary School, children are organised into four classes. In most cases, we combine two year groups into a single class. However, due to the fluctuating number of pupils in Reception and Year 1, it may be necessary to divide the Year 1 cohort between Classes 1 and 2.

### Possible Structures

	Structure 1	Structure 2
<b>Class 1</b>	Reception	Reception & some Year 1
<b>Class 2</b>	Year 1 & Year 2	Some Year 1 & Year 2
<b>Class 3</b>	Year 3 & Year 4	Year 3 & Year 4
<b>Class 4</b>	Year 5 & Year 6	Year 5 & Year 6

### 2.1 Key Stage 2

The school's Published Admission Number (PAN) is 17. This means that in Key Stage 2, two year groups can be combined to form one class of no more than 34 children. Variations in year group sizes means that in recent years Key Stage 2 classes have rarely been above 30.

### 2.2 Early Years and Key Stage 1

The organisation of Class 1 and Class 2 may vary from year to year, in order to accommodate the differing numbers in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. In order to ensure that Class 1 and Class 2 comply with Infant Class Size Legislation, the total number of children in each class must not exceed 30, except in exceptional circumstances. This means that Year 1 children may need to be split between Class 1 and Class 2.

### **3. Guiding Principles**

In selecting a class structure, the following guiding principles will be taken into account:

- All Reception children will progress to Year 1, irrespective of the class in which they are taught.
- Infant Class Size Legislation restricts the size of classes with Early Years and Key Stage 1 children in them to 30.
- Size and practicality constraints limit Key Stage 2 Classes to 34.
- The school needs the flexibility to grow for the future. It is the stated wish of the Governing Body that the school should have the capacity to accommodate new children moving to the area and wanting their children to come to Fowlmere Primary School. This means that the choice of structure should reflect the desire to keep spaces free at Key Stage 1.
- Where possible, Class 1 should be smaller in number than Class 2.
- The decision to allocate Year 1 children to two different classes should be carefully considered. The decision should not isolate 1 or 2 children from the cohort into one class, unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- Class structure will be discussed by the Governing Body each year in order to determine the best structure based on that year's numbers.

### **4. Organising Year 1 Pupils into Classes**

The following criteria will be used to allocate children to classes if the decision to teach Year 1 in two classes is taken.

- Year 1 pupils will be divided as equally as possible into either Class 1 or Class 2 by their age, in line with the guiding principle above and with the exceptions listed below. The older children will be taught in Class 2 and the younger in Class 1.
- There may be very occasional exceptions to this.
  - Where it is felt that, due to a child's Special Educational Needs or disability, they would greatly benefit from accessing provision which differs to the one their birth date dictates, a discussion will take place with the child's parents and the SENDCo. A final decision will be made by the Headteacher.
  - Where it is felt that a child remaining in Class 1 will be with a younger sibling and that this would be significantly detrimental to either or both children, a decision to place the Year 1 child into Class 2 may be taken. A final decision will be taken by the Headteacher. It is important to note that in all other year groups siblings in consecutive years are necessarily placed in the same class in alternate years.
  - Where a division puts a single boy or girl into one class by themselves flexibility in the allocations may be required.

## **5. When are Parents Informed?**

Parents of children in Reception will be informed of their child's Year 1 class in their end of year report in the Summer Term.

## **6. Curriculum Coverage**

Although Class 1 and Class 2 termly topics may differ, all children in Year 1 will be taught the same National Curriculum objectives, regardless of whether they are placed in Class 1 or Class 2. Class teachers will ensure that learning tasks are tailored to the needs and current achievement levels of individual pupils.

Each class has a two year rotation of topics, this will ensure children receive appropriate curriculum coverage.

## **7. Concerns and Complaints**

At Fowlmere Primary School we take all queries and complaints seriously and follow the school General Complaints Procedure, available on the school website or in the school office.