



RESPECTFUL



AMBITIOUS



RESILIENT

## Policy for Class Mixing and Groupings

After careful consideration and review, the senior leadership team and governors have made the decision to implement class mixing next academic year for all year groups. This decision has been taken in the best interest of our children and their overall educational and social development.

Whilst class mixing may be a little daunting for some children and parents, as it involves reorganising the familiar environment and social dynamics that children have grown accustomed to. However, we would like to reassure you that this decision is based on educational research, best practices, and the best longer term interests of our children. We wish to build children's social skills, their ability to work in different environments and personal resilience.

Prior to Covid disruption and lockdowns we had mixed classes at various times throughout the children's journey through school. This was a very successful practise and children managed the change well with our support through transition arrangements and dedicated staff. Following Covid disruption the SLT and governors did not wish to mix classes whilst the children were re-integrated back in to school, this was intended to be for as short a time as possible before returning to regular mixing.

There are several key reasons behind our decision to mix including:

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1. **Enhanced Learning Opportunities:** Class mixing enables a broader range of social interactions and diverse learning experiences for the children. By interacting with different members of the year group children can develop crucial social skills, empathy, and a better understanding of diverse perspectives. Children can learn how to form and maintain a wider group of friends and how to get along with their peer group.
2. **Academic Growth:** Mixing classes allows for the creation of balanced learning groups, where children with varying strengths can support and learn from one another. This approach encourages collaboration, fosters healthy competition, and promotes the learning of all children.

3. Transition Preparation: In the long run, class mixing better prepares the children for the changes later in school and at transition points when going to secondary school. It helps them develop resilience, adaptability, and the ability to thrive in different social settings—skills that are vital for their future academic and personal success.

I want to assure you that we will be work hard to ensure a smooth transition for all children. Our experienced teachers and teaching assistants have prepared new classes using appropriate criteria and scrutinised the class lists explaining their rationale for the decisions they have made around groupings. They have carefully considered each child's individual needs and made effort to ensure that each child has other children within their class with whom they get along well with and play with. Inevitably some close friends may be placed in separate classes. If we feel children are particularly vulnerable we will add weight to friendship preference but for children with whom there are no vulnerability concerns we expect that they will manage the move with the appropriate support and messages from school and home.

We understand that change can be challenging, but we firmly believe that class mixing will be a positive step towards enhancing the educational experience for all the children. By embracing this change together, we can create an environment that promotes holistic growth, fosters inclusivity, and equips the children with the skills they need to excel in an ever-changing world. We hope that you are able to support your child and encourage them positively through this move. We ask that the schools final decision around placement is respected.

Our values have been considered in the decision making process around the mixing of classes and whilst children may not always be with the group they would prefer and indeed some friendships will be split we view the challenge this presents as an opportunity for Personal Development. Our school values of Respect, Ambition and Resilience are helpful in framing the move for children.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we strive to provide the best possible education for your child. We value your help in ensuring the children make a smooth and positive start to their new class.