



PARENTS GUIDE TO:

Class Organisation



Parent Guide No.18

'...achieving excellence for ourselves and others'

Foundation Stage

Nursery

Children join our Nursery at age 2 or 3 years and are allocated sessions according to parental choice.

Nursery Children are part of key family groups;

- "Waterfall" for 2 - 3yr olds,
- "Garden" or "Woodland" for 3 - 4 year olds.

As children attend at different times during the week they are able to establish a wide group of friends. When children move on to Reception Year some of these friends will be in the same classes.

Reception Classes

As children move from Nursery to Reception Classes they join their class for the year. In organising these classes we seek to balance numbers, gender, ability and other factors so that classes are broadly equal. Children remain in their class for the year unless special circumstances apply.

Key Stage One

Year One and Two

As children move to Year One classes may remain unchanged or may be rearranged to achieve continued balance. This is also normally the case as children move to Year Two.

Key Stage Two

Year Three, Four, Five and Six

At the move from Key Stage One to Key Stage Two, classes are reorganised. The reorganisation is for a number of purposes. It allows us to rebalance classes where they have

become unequal in terms of size, gender balance or even ability balance as children develop. It also allows us to adapt the number of classes for cohorts that are smaller than the norm.

This is repeated at Y4 and further re-arrangements occur with setting and specialist teaching at Years Five and Six.

General Considerations

At each point of transfer we work closely with teachers and, as appropriate, with children themselves. We ask for information about friendships as well as using the progress data for pupils.

Parents will understand that we can never guarantee to place a child with all friends in the same class or to avoid placing a child in the same class as someone they don't "get on with" but we do aim to consider everything and achieve the best balance of all factors.

Transfer to Secondary School

Throughout Year 6, teachers are in regular contact with partner secondary schools with regard to each child's achievement, interests and friendships. This information helps the secondary school in organising sets and tutor groups for year 7.

As part of this process, during terms 5 and 6 teachers from the secondary schools' pastoral care teams spend time in our school meeting children and talking with them about tutor groups and friendships. Information from SATs and other assessments, help to finalise the groups.

Children Joining At Other Times

Families may need to move for work or other reasons and thus children moving into a new house and joining the school part way through a year or key stage is a normal occurrence.

In such cases children are allocated to a class following broadly the procedures set out above.

A special information booklet 'Guidance for Parents/Carers of Newly Arrived Children' is available, giving more advice.