

STUDLEY ST. MARY'S C.E.



ACADEMY

Review frequency	Annually
Review date	Autumn 2022
Date adopted by AGC	Autumn 2021
Member of staff responsible	Headteacher

We strive to inspire our children to flourish, so our staff, pupils and families can 'live life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10).

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Mixing Classes

From September 2021 we will be mixing the classes across school.

Classes will be mixed annually at the end of each academic year in preparation for September.

Rationale

The mixing of year groups is normal practice for a school of this size. It will lead to an increased academic focus within the school driving improved attainment and progress. The needs of the year group can be carefully balanced. Mixing classes will improve relationships, so that over a child's journey through school they will be given the opportunity to connect and re-connect with all the children in their year group, building strong, positive connections and relationships with others. It will help to balance the classes and limit any ongoing friendship issues within classes which are not conducive to learning. It allows children to develop better resilience and develop broader friendships in a safe and comfortable environment. It will lead to the building of a stronger school community, as children identify as being members of a year group team rather than a parochial class identity.

Benefits for the children:

- To create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers.
- To enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school.
- Better resilience in developing friendships in a safe, comfortable environment.
- Being part of a year group team and not just a class.
- Building more relationships and connections with children in their year which will benefit them throughout their whole school journey and in the wider community.
- Enabling new children to settle better into school.
- To promote a greater sense of community
- Strengthening the whole school community as families can develop relationships with other families within the year group.

Principles

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, the Senior Leadership Team, and the Head teacher.
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes when making decisions.
- We will communicate the criteria for class mixing in an open and transparent way as detailed in this policy.
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes.

Deciding new class lists

The aim is for children to make maximum academic progress and develop well socially and personally. Each year the current class teachers will work together to draw up the classes for next year. These will be finalised with the Senior Leadership Team and Head teacher. There will be consistent criteria for teachers to consider to harmonise the classes for the maximum benefit of the children:

- Children's views on friendships
- Teachers' views on friendships
- Range of educational, social, and personal needs
- Age and level of maturity
- Balance of Gender
- Balance of Special Educational Needs
- Balance of Ability
- Family relationships such as in year siblings/staff children

Including the children

The children's opinions are important to us at Studley St Mary's Academy. We will involve the children themselves in our decision-making process. We will ask them to give us the names of 3 friends that they would like to stay with and aim to ensure that they are with at least one of those children. Some children already have friends in the other class and may put them on their list. Children will also be asked if there are children, you feel would not be better to mix with. If it is not possible to place children with one of their named choices, then this will be shared with the child and support given to develop new friendships. It is not our intention to separate good friendships, the children will still be spending valuable time together out on the playground at break and dinner times. It is important to remember that the focus in class is on learning and not socialising. Socialising is for playtimes and lunchtimes where the children will be able to reconnect with children in their previous class and maintain their friendships. The class teachers will talk to the children beforehand to explain the process and to reassure the children of any worries they may have.

Siblings

Where siblings are in the same year group, they can remain in the same class if they name each other on the 3 friends list. This may mean that they are not with any other children on their list. This is the same for multiple births. School strongly recommends that as the children move into Year 5 that siblings are separated into different classes.

Parents

Parents are also most welcome to talk, confidentially, to current class teachers, to let them know their views, should they wish to do so. Each child will be with some children from their existing class and may know other children in their year group.

Notification

Children will be told which class they are in at the end of the academic year. Parents will be advised via parentmail on the same day. This will be shortly before the new classes' transition day, where the children spend time with their new teacher and classmates.

Complaints

If parents are unhappy with the class that their child has been placed in, they should contact the current class teacher in the first instance and be referred to this policy. If they are not satisfied with the rationale given they can make an appointment to see the head teacher. The final decision is at the Head Teacher's discretion. If parents remain unhappy then they should follow the formal complaints process.