

Mixing Classes – Frequently Asked Questions



Will my child still be in a class with their friends?

When we have made a decision to mix a year group we will ask the children which group of friends they would like to stay with. These responses will be taken into account when we divide the year group. Some children already have friends in the other class and have requested the opportunity to work with those friends.

Does “Matching children up to working with other children of similar abilities to encourage challenge” mean that the school will be streaming and/or setting?

What this means is that we’d aim to put together a good balance of abilities within each class, such that children who share similar strengths or difficulties in particular areas can sometimes work together. We are not proposing to stream or set. We would continue to teach mixed ability classes but remain open to flexible groupings for some lessons just as we do now.

How will you decide the mixing within a year group?

This will be based on a variety of factors including:

- Children’s views on friendships
- Teachers views on friendships
- Ability
- Gender

What are the benefits for the children?

- Better resilience in developing friendships in a safe, comfortable environment –arguably even more important in Y4/5 when they will be moving to secondary school soon and having a wider base of friends would be beneficial
- Widening working groups
- Being part of a year group and not just a class
- A better match to a working group

What are the benefits for the school?

- Further development of good attitudes to learning
- Children developing resilience in facing challenges whilst in a safe and supportive environment
- Greater potential for grouping children as we need, for overall improved academic performance across the school

What will you do if a child is unhappy in their new class?

We always want children to be happy in school. We are clear from the outset that it is very unlikely that children will swap to a different class. If a child is unhappy we will put lots of pastoral work in place; work on self-esteem, making friendship groups and giving the child a chance to make new friends through things like team building games. It is hard to write it all here as every child is different but if your child is unhappy we need you to come in and speak to us. Please speak to the class teacher in the first instance but be assured that we will be watching everything very carefully.

How would children with SEND be supported?

We are embarking on very thorough transition arrangements. This will use the skillful support staff that we have, the SENCo and class teachers. Each child may get something different but above all, there will be lots of time with their new classmates and the extra support there for the children who need it.

Will there be an equal mix of ability?

Absolutely an equal mix. This is about supporting children. Children learn a lot from their peers and evidence proves that they learn even more by supporting their peers.

I have more questions, where do I send them?

We are here for you, so please get in touch with school and we will answer your questions. If we have missed ones from here that are clearly important to you, we will update this document. Please, just keep in touch with us about any worries.

Will you be doing this every year?

Moving forward we will evaluate every year group annually. It might be that we decide to leave a year group alone as it is very well balanced, it might be that a year group needs changing again. Ultimately, we will be responding to the needs of the children.

