



Class Mixing Policy

Approved by Headteacher on: 29th November 2022

Review Date: Autumn Term 2026

BARLEY LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

CLASS MIXING POLICY

Statement of intent:

We are committed to ensuring an effective learning environment for all pupils as part of our vision for excellence and happiness for all. The balance of pupil characteristics and needs in each class across a year group can have a profound effect on the progress and happiness of each individual. This policy has been put in place to ensure that we fulfil this commitment, within the limits of our resources, to the best of our ability. With children's best interests in mind, the school may decide to mix classes as pupils transition to the next year group.

Rationale

At Barley Lane Primary School we will review classes each year and mix classes dependent on needs of the school and children and to ensure that:

- There are opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- To enable improved social interaction and the development of social skills between different sets of pupils as they move up through the school. ☒
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer and transition during phases and year groups, and changes to individual needs within each class
- To promote a greater sense of community

Principles

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, Year Group Leaders, SLT and the Headteacher, (whose decision is final)
 - We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions, and strive to achieve a balance.
 - We will be open and transparent about our criteria for class mixing, although we will maintain confidentiality when discussing our reasons for individual decisions with parents and pupils.
 - We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes

Criteria for Class Mixing

Classes will be mixed to achieve a good balance according to the following criteria:

- Gender
- Educational, social, emotional and personal needs
- Maturity

The process:

- Headteacher and SLT make a decision to mix a class based on the needs of the individual cohort
- Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants observe the children's friendships at work and play
- Class Teachers meet to ensure a good balance of friendships, range of educational, social and personal needs, gender and maturity are represented in each class
 - SLT meets with Class Teachers to discuss and finalise groupings
 - Headteacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team meet and approve classes
 - New Classes are shared with parents and children in July when end of year assessment data is published

Friendships

Over the course of their Primary years children will have a range of friendship experiences. We find that some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others can stand the test of time. With that in mind and as we prepare to draw up the new class lists we will use observations of the children in the classroom and at play to inform our decision making. We are aware of the value which our children place on their friendships, and will be sensitive when discussing the class mix with them.

Timescales

- Class Teachers, support staff and SLT discuss their observations of year group dynamics and friendships in the Spring and Summer Term
- Observations are considered along with the other criteria after May half-term
- June: Draft class lists are drawn up and shared with teachers, year group leader and deputy headteachers leaders (June)
- July: Class lists approved by Headteacher
- Final two weeks of summer term: Class lists communicated to parents and children in July as part of the end of year arrangements

Review

The Senior Leadership Team and Headteacher will review the process and criteria for any class mixing arrangements at the beginning of each Spring Term ahead of the following year's class mixing.