

POLICY FOR THE ALLOCATION OF CLASSES

We aim to "shine our light before others". We aspire to be a school filled with love, demonstrating God's love by clothing ourselves with kindness and striving for excellence. Everyone is encouraged to make a difference in their own lives, their families and the communities we serve.

Rationale

Thriplow Church of England Primary is a small village school where pupil numbers in different cohorts and classes can fluctuate from year to year. In order to maintain a balanced and well-resourced class sizes in all classes, there may be the need to split and/or group cohorts. This may change from year to year and may create mixed age classes.

For example, there may be the need to split the Year 1 cohort. This would create a mixed age class of Foundation Stage and Year 1 children, and a mixed age class of Year 1 and Year 2 children. All Year 1 children follow the same curriculum and the school implements strategies to ensure that all Year 1 children have similar learning opportunities, whichever class they are in. Alternatively, children may be grouped into double year group classes, for example all of Year 3 and 4 together. Or children may be grouped into parallel classes with mixed age pupils from two cohorts, for example two parallel Year 5/6 classes. In these circumstances, children will follow the curriculum of their year group with staff implementing strategies to ensure they all have similar learning opportunities, whichever class they are in.

Deciding on the placing of individuals:

Small village schools like ours have the opportunity to ensure each child's best interests are considered. The Headteacher will decide on the optimum number of children in each class to balance the overall number of children and resources. In the placing of individual children, a range of factors such as age, maturity, aptitude and medical special educational needs may be considered, in conversation with parents/carers.

Reporting to parents:

In the case of a potential Year 1 split, during the Parents Consultation Evening in the Spring term of the Reception year the teacher will have a discussion with parents regarding the decision likely to be made for their child's class for the following year.

The whole-school structure for the following academic year will be decided during the Summer Term and reported to parents in good time so that all children have the chance to meet their new teacher and spend time with their new class during a transition morning in July.

Disagreement between the decision of the school and the wishes of the Parents or Carers:

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to organise the class structure of the school. Any necessary reorganisation, such as splitting and/or grouping of cohorts, is done with the consultation of staff, and is made in the best interests of individual children and the school as a whole. All decisions are made using the same criteria and we aim to be as fair as possible.

Any parent not accepting the school's decision should be aware that, whilst the school will listen to concerns, the Headteacher's ultimate decision is final.

November 2022

Ratified by Governors December 2022 and to be reviewed annually