



EWELL GROVE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

MIXING CLASSES AT THE END OF YEAR R, YEAR 2 AND YEAR 4

As a Primary School with two classes per year group, we are able to consider mixing classes at the end of each year. This is necessary because over the course of year dynamics or circumstances can change, making classes unbalanced. Ewell Grove has taken the decision to annually consider mixing classes at the end of reception (as the children move into KS1), Year 2 (as the children move into KS2) and Year 4 (as the children move into their last two years of primary school).

We will also consider, year on year, if any other circumstances require us to mix a year group, over and above these.

The aim of mixing classes is to:

- Create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- Enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school
- Ensure every class remains balanced in response to pupil development
- Promote a greater sense of community across the school

Staff consider the organisation of classes in preparation for a new school year in September. Meetings are scheduled, between staff, where information is shared, in order to create the best possible combinations of children across the entire year group.

These discussions follow a clear set of principles:

- We will always consider what is in the best educational interest of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions.
- We consider the happiness and welfare of the children by taking into consideration existing friendship groups; we focus on how positive the impact of the friendship is in regard to learning in the classroom
- We give parents the opportunity to put into writing any issues they would like us to consider; we act accordingly, where we see an educational reason to this viewpoint. It is logistically impossible for us to act on every parental request
- The final decisions are based on the professional judgements of staff along with support from the Strategic Leadership Team

Naming the teacher, the gender of the teacher or class name you would like for your child will not be considered a legitimate request.

Once class lists have been finalised and shared, further changes will not be considered.

Friendships

Over the course of their school years, children will have a range of friendship experiences. Some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others stand the test of time. Unfortunately, not all good 'playground' friendships work as well in the classroom. Some can have a very negative impact on children's learning as they spend too much time coping with these relationships. With this in mind, staff use observations of the children in the classroom and at play to inform their decision-making. They also talk to the children themselves. Staff are tasked with mixing the children to ensure a good balance of friendships, range of educational, social and personal needs, and gender representation in each class.

Transition

The aim of transition is to support the children with making the step to a new year group with all the changes that inherently brings with it. To assist this the following happens during the summer term:

- A detailed handover takes place between the current class teacher and the new class teacher
- Children visit their new classroom and spend time with their new teacher (s)

Some children find transition particularly difficult. This can be because of an education or medical need or that they are anxious or worried. However, experience has shown us that this can equally be the case for some parents. If you are worried about transition for your child, please speak to the current class teacher.