

# HARNHAM INFANT SCHOOL

## CLASS MIXING POLICY



HARNHAM INFANT SCHOOL

*'Enjoy, Explore and Learn'*

Reviewed by Full Governing Body.....

Signed on behalf of Governors.....

Signed on behalf of Staff .....

## **Harnham Infant School**

### **Class Mixing Policy**

#### **Rationale**

- 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.
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to children transfer and transition during phases.

#### **Principles**

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of the class teachers, phase leaders, SENDco and the Headteacher.
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as whole when making decisions.
- We will communicate the criteria for class mixing in an open and transparent way.
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will, where possible, take into the consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes.

#### **Mixing**

- The children will be mixed at the end of each key stage e.g. year R, Year 2 if in the best interest of the pupils and school. It may be that we will do this at the end of Year 1 too.

The Juniors school mix the children at the end of Year 4 and children are naturally mixed when they move to Secondary school.

#### **The Process**

- Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants observe the children's friendships at work and play.
- Class Teachers meet to ensure a good balance of children's friendships, range of educational, social and personal needs, gender, maturity and parental engagement are represented in each class.
- Phase Leaders meets with class teachers to discuss and finalise groupings.
- Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team meet and approve classes.
- New classes are trialled.
- Any adjustments are made after the trialling.
- New classes are shared with parents before bump up day.

## **Criteria for Class Mixing**

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

- Gender
- Range of educational, social and personal needs
- Level of maturity
- Friendships \*
- Parental engagement

\*Over the course of their Infant year's children will have a range of friendships experiences. We find that some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others can stand the test of time. With that in mind as we prepare to draw up the class lists we will use observations of the children in the classroom and at play to inform our decision.

## **Timescales**

Summer term	Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants discuss their observations of friendships.
May	Observations along with other criteria are considered.
June	Class lists are drawn up and shared with Phase leaders
July	Class lists are approved by the Headteacher
July	Class lists are communicated to parents and children in July as part of the end of year arrangements.