



## Mixed Class Group Policy

### Rationale:

As per Department of Education & Youth allocations, there are currently 15 class teachers and 8 class groupings (i.e. Junior Infant to Sixth Classes) in Scoil Mhuire na nGrást. Therefore, the formation of mixed class groupings are an inevitable consequence at some stage and it should also be noted that over 30% of children in Irish primary schools are taught in such settings.

### Aims and Objectives of this policy:

- To provide a framework for the formation of mixed class groupings
- To outline the criteria on which pupils are selected to be placed in mixed or single classes
- To set out the supports which may be used to ensure the best learning outcomes and school experience for all pupils in mixed class groupings
- To set out the arrangement for books and schemes of work for mixed class groupings

### Framework for the splitting of classes

At the time of planning the classes for the coming year, the Principal, together with the In-School Leadership Team (ISLT), will look at the overall numbers in each year group and the number of mainstream class teachers allocated by the DEY to teach them. In consultation with staff members, it will be decided how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities for all pupils. The arrangement of classes will differ from year to year; in some cases there may be no requirement to have a mixed class among any class group in an academic year. Where it is necessary, a mixed class is put in place for one school year, numbers and staffing arrangements will dictate the arrangement in subsequent years. In short, a class may require a mixed class group once, more than once during their time in primary school or not at all. These arrangements and considerations are reviewed annually.

### Criteria for placing children in particular class groups

Ensuring the optimum learning outcome for each child is always a key consideration when forming a mixed class group. In this regard, the following criteria will be used:

- Previous class groupings – where a pupil was in a mixed class group for a year, they will most likely not be in such a class setting the subsequent year, subject to mainstream teacher allocation by the DEY
- Age – where a mixed class grouping is being formed, the older pupils from the junior of the classes may be selected to form part of the new mixed group. Conversely, the younger pupils of the senior of the classes may be selected to form part of the new mixed group
- Gender balance - an equal, or as close as possible, number of boys and girls will form part of the mixed class grouping
- Special Educational Need requirements & the availability of Special Needs Assistance provision
- Parents of twins/siblings will be given the option of remaining together or being split among the new devised class groups
- It is considered best practice to form mixed-ability class groupings

## Support Measures

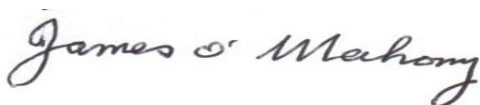
- All class groupings, including any mixed-class groups, will be made known to parents/guardians and pupils before the summer holidays (i.e. during the month of June)
- School yard (e.g. all pupils from a specific class group/year will continue to play together in the same yard at break-times)
- If staffing allows, the relevant classes will re-group for a curricular area in the school on a fortnightly basis
- Many school events present opportunities for the relevant classes to re-group (e.g. Sciath na Scol dedicated-class competitions, STEM projects, school tours, Christmas presentations, Sports for All Day, Guest Speaker visits...)
- The process of forming new friendships is a life skill which is important to develop. In this regard, positive parental encouragement and support is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in the new groups
- As with all classes, the Principal, the Class Teacher and Special Education team will consult on how best to organise learning support provision for the mixed class group

## Arrangement for books and schemes of work for mixed class groups

- The prescribing of books and planning of schemes of work will be differentiated for the core subjects of Numeracy and Literacy thereby each class level will work from textbooks specific to their class level
- The class teacher will differentiate the remaining curricular subjects using the various methods of differentiation recommended in the Primary School Curriculum
- Due to the nature of varying teaching styles, differing timetables etc. progression through the curriculum and the prescription of homework may differ between the two groupings. All pupils will access the full curriculum

**The board wishes to advise that all decisions in respect of the organisation of mixed class or single class groupings, the allocation of teachers to all classes and the redeployment of support staff lies solely with the school.**

**This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 21/04/2026**



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Cathaoirleach, An Bhóird Bainistíochta



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Príomhoide

Date: 21/04/2026