



St Nicholas' Primary School Longwood.

Criteria for Selecting Pupils for Mixed Classes School Procedure

Background

The Department of Education and Skills allocates a specific number of class teachers to all primary schools, and this number is based on a school's pupil enrolment number on Sept 30th of the previous school year.

This is referred to as 'School Staffing Level' and this allocation is reviewed nationally on an annual basis.

The School Principal will then organise the pupils into class groups, with a view to ensuring an even number of pupils in each class.

In ensuring an equal distribution of pupils for each class teacher, it is sometimes necessary to have more than one class level in the same class grouping.

St. Nicholas' School has a combination of single stream classes and also mixed stream classes.

The majority of class groupings nationally are mixed stream classes.

Below are the criteria which are used when creating mixed stream classes.

1. Creating two junior infants single stream classes from incoming enrolment.

- Mixed gender and mixed age.
- Consultation between Principal and owners of preschools where the incoming pupils may have attended.
- Special Educational Needs and pupils requiring access to Special Needs Assistants.

2. Allocating incoming junior infants into a 'junior infants/ senior infants' mixed class.

- Mixed gender, and oldest are selected for mixed stream class.
- Consideration also given Special Educational Needs and pupils requiring access to Special Needs Assistants.

3. Organising two single stream classes from mixed stream

- Mixed gender.
- Mixed ability, based on average combined percentile score in Maths and English from most recent standardised tests.

4. **Allocating pupils to a mixed stream class for the *first time*.**

- Mixed gender.
- Mixed ability i.e. an even number of children selected from the top third, middle third and bottom third, in terms of most recent standardised test results.

Principal also liaises with the pupils' current class teachers, and the following extra considerations may be taken into account:

Ability to work independently, friendships, and special educational needs considerations etc.

In so far as is possible pupils are not in a mixed stream class for two successive years.

5. **Reorganising single stream classes**

Pupils in single stream classes may be regrouped at the end of the school year. This may occur when teachers and School Principal decide that the existing groupings may need to be rebalanced in relation to such considerations as ability, friendships, Special Educational Needs etc.

Summary

Over time, as each pupil progresses through the various class levels, a record is kept of whether or not the pupil was allocated a single or mixed stream in previous years.

It is the policy of the school that, in so far as is possible, all pupils will be allocated as fairly and as frequently as possible to both single and mixed stream classes.

The Principal makes the final decision in relation to the allocation of pupils for mixed or single stream classes.

Allocating pupils to the classes will be completed before teachers are assigned to the classes for the following year.

John Smyth
Principal
May 2014