



Esker Educate Together N.S

Policy on Reallocation of pupils in a year grouping

Rationale

Prior to Junior Infants starting in the school, two classes are created by the principal ensuring an even split of boys and girls, and that class numbers are equal. Efforts are made to ensure ages of children are also evenly distributed. School management review pupil allocation periodically and redistribute classes when deemed in the interest of providing the best educational outcomes for all students.

It is understood that it takes time for children to settle into the primary school setting and to understand the structures within the school. We also understand the benefits of change within class groupings. The process of forming new friendships is a life skill which is important to develop. Class reallocation can assist personal and social development by providing the children with opportunities to adapt to new circumstances within a safe and structured environment. It is very important to develop these traits in children as an integral part of preparing them for the changes in life in the years ahead.

Aims and Objectives of this Policy

- To provide a framework for the redistribution of pupils within a year group

Framework for the splitting of classes

At the time of planning the classes for the coming year, the Principal will look at the overall allocation of each class. She will decide how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities for all children.

The following criteria are regularly monitored:

- Number of children in classes
- Number of boys and girls
- Academic/ personal+ social development of the children
- Children who require SNA Support.

Process of reallocation of pupils

This process is carried out with great care throughout and the welfare of every child is carefully considered. It will occur when deemed necessary, with particular attention being given at the end of:

- Senior Infants
- 2nd Class
- 4th Class



Esker Educate Together N.S

Class teachers in the relevant classes, the deputy principal and the principal will restructure the classes. Advice from the SEN team will be considered during the process. Parents will be invited to assist by filling in a form nominating children from either class who they feel have a close friendship with their child. Every effort will be made to ensure that some children listed on this form will be in their new class. All such communication will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The success of this restructuring depends heavily on the attitude of parents towards the change, and the level of support they offer their child.

A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in the new classes.

Criteria for placing children in particular class groups.

The children are grouped in such a way as to maximise the learning outcomes for each child. When distributing pupils to be placed in separate classes, the following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- It is considered best to form mixed-ability groups
- Distribution of boys/girls in classes
- The dynamics of the class: emotional, behavioural and social factors should be taken into consideration when forming new groupings.
- It will seldom be possible to satisfy all demands for groups of friends to be kept together. This decision will lie ultimately with the Principal, who must consider the needs of every child in the class

This means it is not always possible to keep friends together but the teachers of each class to be split are consulted on the above issues and much work goes into the preparatory stage of the arrangement prior to the summer holidays.

Classes that have been redistributed reunite daily to play together on the playground during breaks so they can maintain existing friendships.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in May 2024

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 23rd May 2022.