



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look forward to the end of the current school year and plan for the new session in August, we are considering our class configurations for the next school year. As we are all working in partnership to provide the best possible experience for each child, we value your views and contributions to this process. While we cannot guarantee any requests, we will do our best within our professional judgement to get the best fit for all pupils within our staffing and resource allocations. We do anticipate a number of composite classes across the school again next year. Below you will find information about class configuration. If you have any further queries not covered in this, please do not hesitate to approach a member of the teaching or management teams for further information.

What is a composite class?

A composite class is a class of pupils from two or more consecutive stages (year groups) e.g. P1/2 or P3/4/5. Composite classes are the norm in the majority of primary schools in Aberdeenshire.

Why are composite classes formed?

Schools are staffed to agreed standards based on the total number of pupils within the school irrespective of the number of children in each year group. Head Teachers in partnership with Education and Learning Officers organise their classes to make best use of available staff, resources and space.

How is a teacher able to teach two or more year groups at once?

If your child is placed in a composite class you can be confident that the staff in your school will provide appropriate learning and teaching opportunities suited to his/her individual needs. Your child will be working within a programme of locally and nationally agreed curricular policies and guidelines and the activities will be appropriate for his/her age, aptitude and ability.

Will the children in the composite class get the same opportunities as the children in the single year group class?

Children in all classes, whether composite or single year group, will follow educational programmes devised to help them progress at their own level. In addition, the schools will make every effort to involve children of any one year group in activities which bring them all together. However, it is also important that the natural identity of each class is maintained.

Should I be concerned that the children in the composite class study different topics from the single year group class?

There is no need to be concerned. Class topics are used as a context for developing skills and all children will be developing the skills appropriate for their age, ability and aptitude. Quality improvement procedures exist at school and education authority levels to ensure that your child is making appropriate progress within locally and nationally agreed curriculum guidelines.

Uryside School Class Organisation Procedure

1. In partnership, authority and Head Teacher decide on class structure based on predicted school roll.
2. The views of the child and parent are collected through questionnaire format. (Appendix 1)
3. In partnership the Head Teacher with class teachers and PSA's allocate children to a class. The decision to allocate a child to a class is one that is not taken lightly. The Head Teacher will form classes using professional judgement taking account of a range of criteria to best meet the educational, social and emotional needs of children.

The range of criteria considered include the following.

- Working groups (i.e. groups of children who are together for the greatest part of their curricular experience)
 - Social groups
 - Pupils' dates of birth
 - Particular family circumstances
 - Gender balance
 - Distribution of pupils across year groups in a particular class (only when possible within teacher staffing entitlement)
4. Once each child has been allocated their new class the Head Teacher along with staff will thoroughly review and check that pupil and parental views have been taken into account and there is consensus amongst staff that this is best decision for each child.
 5. Class organisation will be shared with children and parents prior to being given the opportunity where possible to meet their new teacher and visit their new classroom.
 6. We appreciate that for some children changing class can be an anxious time and we will offer additional transition activities where appropriate to ensure the child is confident in moving class.

Appendix 1



Child's Name _____ Class _____

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and views. We would be grateful if children could complete the questionnaire in partnership with their parent/carer ensuring that the views collected have been discussed. Please return to school before Friday 31st May 2019.

Who do you work well with and you would like in your class next year? Write 3 top friends.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

We cannot ensure that the children who you don't work well with will not be in your class but we will try to ensure that you have at least 1 good friend.

Are you worried about moving class this year? Please let us know your worries? We will try and help!

Parental Voice

Please detail below any questions, concerns or views that you have. Thank you.
