

Mixed Year Group Policy

‘Together we unlock potential and learn for life’



Moor First School

This policy was approved by the Governing Body of Moor First School at their meeting on:

Chair of Governors

Print:

Sign:

Co-Head Teachers:

Print:

Sign:

Print:

Sign:

Review Frequency
Every 3 years

Next review: May 2026

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Rationale

As a small school, we have the need to educate our pupils in mixed age classes. Funding (per pupil) does not give us the financial capacity to create one extra member of staff for 5 classes. This is similar to other schools in the area, and also the choice of some larger schools that would be able to accommodate mono age classes.

Our Published Admission Number (PAN) of 20 means that children have to be educated in mixed age classes at some stage/all stages during their time at Moor First. This starts with the Early Years Foundation Stage Class where 20 full time reception children (upper foundation) share the Early Foundation Stage Unit with 12 part-time nursery children (lower foundation). Numbers for each may vary dependent on the take up of reception places i.e. if these are lower than the PAN we may then increase the number of nursery children.

Principles

The Head teacher will arrange classes according to the following criteria:

- That no class containing KS1 pupils will go over 30 children in keeping with national guidelines.
- That no class containing only KS2 pupils will go over 35 children (national guidelines)
- Classes will be allocated, based on writing attainment –this is the best way to ensure that all children are placed in the class that best suits their learning needs. This decision is based on end of year assessment results.

The only exception to this rule would be:

- Children who have been allocated a special needs statement; as these children take priority.
- Children who need support with emotional development and social skills.
- Children who need to develop their independence. - Siblings
- That the number of children in a single year group, placed in a mixed age class is maximised, taking into account the size of the year group and the need to balance class sizes i.e. In a standard year group of 20, the target would therefore be a minimum of six/seven. However, where there are cohorts of less than 14, this class could be split as equally as possible.
- To keep class sizes as small as possible to enable more support for the learning of individual pupils.
- Gender – No **one** girl or boy should be separated from his or her year group.
- The Head teacher will make the final decision based on advice from the class teachers.

See Appendix 1 for exceptional circumstances.

Teaching in a mixed year class

At Moor First, we pride ourselves on how well we work as a team. To ensure that the curriculum provision is consistent, there will be a requirement for staff to work closely in their teams implementing a 2-year rolling programme. This means that all children will have covered the whole programme of study for their key stage by the time they leave it, regardless of which class they are placed in. It also ensures that

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children do not repeat work previously covered, although in some areas, such as Key Stage 2 English and Maths, the curriculum is actually designed in this way as repetition and reinforcement are essential elements.

Pupil progress in mixed age classes

The class they are in does not disadvantage children at Moor First. The mixed age classes follow the same National Curriculum and is delivered to meet their individual ability. Children are not 'held back' or 'struggling to keep up' and all tasks are differentiated to challenge the needs of individuals. Teachers are trained to work in mixed ability classes and can confidently adapt the curriculum to suit the needs of their classes. Whatever the composition of the class, it is the responsibility of the class teacher to treat all pupils as individuals and make sure that every pupil is making good progress. Opportunities are made for children from the same year group to mix together during break time, lunch times, after school activities, sports teams and some curriculum coverage such as Science. The allocation of classrooms, where possible, will ensure that pupils of similar age are located close together to facilitate peer groups, socialisation and the mixing of groups for teaching time.

At Moor First, we believe that mixing classes means:

- We can ensure that classes receive a fresh start every year
- Children make new and more friends from a wider range of peers
- Children get used to change and develop resilience and coping strategies, which are key life skills.

Children will have a special 'circle time' in school to discuss their new classes for September along with an assembly to remind the pupils about the reasoning behind their chosen classes for the next academic year.

Informing Parents

Parents are initially informed about our mixed age policy at the New Parents Meeting which is held in the summer term prior to the children starting school the following September. In addition to this, all parents/carers will be reminded on an annual basis – at Parents Evenings and will be informed that the policy is available on the school's website. Prior to the first 'bump-up' session on the penultimate week of the Summer Term, parents / carers will receive their child's annual report. Information on this report will inform parents / carers of their child's class and teacher for the next academic year. This is in-line with all other Biddulph Partnership Trust Schools.

Parental concerns

We would encourage positivity amongst parents with regard to the allocation of children, as we are very aware that this is a very unsettling for many of them. Concerns should be shared discretely with the Head teacher who will work with teachers to reassure parents about their child's allocated class.

There is no formal right to appeal against a decision on a child joining a particular class. Parents will always be supplied with the reasons for the establishment of the class and the Head teacher's rationale as to how pupils were allocated to the class with reference to this policy. This is a managerial decision based on this policy. The Governing Body have delegated the responsibility of day to day management of the school to the Head teacher and Senior Leadership Team.

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