

Mixed Year Group Policy

'Together we unlock potential and learn for life'



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

SignedChair of Governors

SignedHeadteacher

Review Frequency: Every 3

Next Review: May 2026

Mixed Year Group Policy

Rationale

As a small school, we have the need to educate our pupils in mixed age classes. From September 2024, Moor first school will operate a 3 class system as funding (per pupil) does not give us the financial capacity to maintain the 4 classes.

Our Published Admission Number (PAN) of 20 means that children have to be educated in mixed age classes at 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. From September 2024 onwards, our school will have a mixed Nursery/reception class, a Y1/Y2 class and a Y3/Y4 class.

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)

The only exception to this rule would be:

- Children who have been allocated a special needs statement; as these children take priority.

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 for each key stage. This means that all children will have covered the whole programme of study for their key stage by the time they leave it. It also ensures that 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

Teachers are trained to work in mixed ability classes and can confidently adapt the curriculum to suit the needs of their classes. Children will be taught in relation to age related expectations. 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.

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 can access a range of challenges and develop as leaders.

Mixed Year Group Policy

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 the class structure for the next academic year. Children will take part in a week long transition at the end of the summer term to prepare them for September.

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 transition week at the end 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.

Parental concerns

We would encourage positivity amongst parents with regard to our class structure but concerns should be shared discretely with the Head teacher.

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.