



Welcome to Riverside Primary

~ Organisation of Classes ~

Composite Classes

June 2019

Overview

- What is a composite class
- Why composite classes are formed
- How composite classes are formed
- How composite classes 'work'

- Provide some helpful information
- Allow you to ask any questions

What and why?

- Two or more stages taught in 1 class
 - e.g. P3/2; P1-4; P5-7
- Formed as a result of
 - School roll
 - Staffing allocation
- Class sizes
 - P1 = 25
 - P2 & P3 = 30
 - P4 - P7 = 33



What and why?

- Feature of many schools
 - National
 - Local



- Riverside Primary School
 - Popularity
 - Large P1 intake 2018/2019
 - Placing requests 2018/2019

How composite classes are formed

- Policy for the Organisation of Learning
 - Date of birth lead factor
 - A reasonable balance of gender where possible
 - The additional support needs of children - exceptionalality



Meet needs of child

- Needs of every child met
- Follow curriculum programmes for stage
- Learning experiences with both stages
- Meet peers throughout day, week & term



How composite classes 'work'

Learning & teaching in composite classes

- More than 1 set of teaching e.g. core skills
- Differentiated work e.g. within contexts
- Joint across year group e.g. Context/Topic
- Part of year group e.g. lunches / Events
- Joint planning & assessment - Stage Partners
- Additional support

Support for Children

- Information leaflet has been produced by the authority - 'Moving Classes' to help prepare children for transition from one class to another.
- Class teachers will share this with their children - parents will receive a copy of this via parentmail. Further copies can be requested if required

Transition Arrangements

- Parents/carers and children will be informed of their new class on Monday 17th June.
- 'Meet the Teacher afternoon' is an opportunity for all children to meet their new class mates and their teacher - Friday 21 June.
- Enhanced transition arrangements can be put in place if parents feel this is appropriate for their child. This can be discussed and agreed with SMT.
- Extra collegiate sessions for staff to allow the thorough transfer of information between teachers, as required.
- P1s are allocated a buddy - a child who will be in P7 next session.
- Discussions will take place in class and at whole school assembly to explain the changes to the children and to help them to prepare for this.

FAQ - Will my child miss out academically when in a composite class?

- Teachers are very clear about the children and the stage of children in their class
- Teachers get to know your children very well and take them forward from where they are
- Staff have professional dialogue regularly, they co-operatively plan and they do rigorous hand-overs each year

FAQ - Will my child's confidence be affected due to being in a composite class?

- Normally the opposite, e.g. children in early set of a multi age class like to be in with the 'big ones' and can benefit from seeing and hearing the work that the other children do.
- Children in later set of a multi age class see themselves as the 'experts', they are now the 'oldest' in the class and can share 'how to' and 'where to' with the new children.
- Teachers monitor children closely and if there were any issue would notify SMT and parents and these would be addressed.

FAQ - Will my child remain in this class their whole primary school career?

- The days of remaining in the same class for all of their primary years have been gone for some time.
- Classes cannot be predicted and can only be constructed each year as the new intake enrol. The make-up of any child's class is likely to change at any time during their primary school years.
- At Riverside Primary we help children form new friendships and maintain existing ones, and we find they settle into their classes well.
- The children grow in resilience, and benefit from learning these important skills for life.

Class Structure

• P1

P4

P1-2G

• P1

P4/5

P3-4G

• P2

P5

P5-7G

• P2

P5/6

• P2/3

P6

• P3

P6

This could be subject

• P3/4

P7

to change!

•

P7

What happens now?

- Letter about next year's class will be sent out Monday 17th June
- Opportunities for children to meet teacher & visit class on Friday 21st June
- Any questions

