



Class Mixing Policy

Date agreed by Governors	Summer 2024
Next Review	Summer 2026

Linked Documents
Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy
Positive Behaviour Policy
Teaching Learning
Equality Policy



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) articles which inform this policy are:

- Article 3: The best interest of the child must be top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children
- Article 12: Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.
- Article 28: Every child has the right to education. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights.
- Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and their environment.
- Article 31: Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

School's Purpose: To prepare pupils for lifelong success

School's Vision: At Godwin Junior School we:

- Value everyone
- Instil a love of learning
- Seek and encourage talent
- Inspire resilient learners
- Open minds to develop responsible global citizens
- Nurture confident, articulate individuals

Rationale

At Godwin Junior School, we are committed to ensuring an effective learning environment for all pupils. The balance of pupil characteristics and needs in each class within a year group can have a profound impact on the progress and happiness of each child.

As children are admitted or leave schools throughout the year, this can mean that by the end of an academic year, classes can be quite imbalanced in terms of gender, attainment, language, personal and social needs, maturity and friendships.

We have a policy of mixing the classes across a cohort at the end of Year 3 in order to maintain balanced classes throughout pupils' time at Godwin Junior School. It may also be necessary to mix classes at other points if we feel that it would benefit a particular cohort.

We feel the benefits of mixing a cohort are:

- To enable improved social interaction and the development of social skills between different sets of pupils as they move up through the school
- To develop relationships with a wider group of friends
- To further develop children's collaborative skills for learning
- To ensure that classes remain balanced in response to transition between phases, pupil mobility and changes to individual needs within each class.
- To promote a greater sense of community in a multi-form-entry school (being part of a year group, not just a class)
- To prepare children for secondary school where they will be taught in different classes throughout the year

Principles

- Class mixing automatically takes place at the end of Year 3. It may also happen at other points if the school feels it would benefit a cohort
- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of class teachers and the Senior Leadership Team
- We always consider what is in the best interests of the classes and cohort as a whole when making decisions
- We communicate the criteria for class mixing in an open and transparent way
- We always consider the happiness and welfare of children and take into consideration some existing friendship when we create new classes

Process

- Shortly before class mixing, parents and carers are informed that classes will be mixed and asked to talk to their children about this process
- Class teachers talk to their pupils about the benefits of class mixing and how the process will work
- Children are asked to list five or six other children they would like to be with in their new class
- Class teachers and Senior Leaders consider the list of friends that children have selected; they ensure that each child is in a class with at least two of the children they named
- Class Teachers and Senior Leaders plan new classes to ensure a good balance of friendships, attainment levels, language, social and personal needs, gender, heritage and maturity are represented in each class
- New classes are shared with children when 'class swap' sessions happen across the whole school in July

- New classes are shared with parents and carers in July

Criteria for Class Mixing

Classes will be mixed to achieve a good balance according to the following criteria:

- Gender
- Attainment levels
- Range of special educational and learning support needs
- Stage of learning English as an additional language
- Heritage
- Social and personal needs
- Siblings – usually we would separate siblings
- Friendships - : we consider the children's relationships with their peers both in the classroom and in the playground, as well as the pupils' lists of children they have named

Once class lists have been finalised by the school, changes will not be possible as this would make the process unmanageable. The number of factors which are considered means that the movement of one child can have a negative impact on many others. The new class lists will be based on the professional judgements of our team, with the best interests of our children at heart. A positive and supportive attitude from parents and carers is a key element in ensuring a smooth and positive transition for the children.