



St. John's N.S., Kenmare
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Allocating Pupils to Classes Policy

Background and Rationale:

St. John's National School seeks to foster a welcoming environment in which the dignity of every child will be valued, respected and equally cherished.

In St. John's National School, we wish to create a nurturing co-educational environment based on Catholic values. We welcome students from all nationalities. All our students are encouraged to develop to their full potential and gifts: academic, social, creative, spiritual, moral and cultural.

It is an all inclusive school where everyone belongs, where diversity is celebrated while developing the individual's self-respect and respect for others

In keeping with the Mission Statement, the school is committed not only to the intellectual, physical, moral, spiritual development of each child but also to their emotional and social development. It is in this context that we promote the importance of positive relationships and endeavour to equip the children with the skills to form and sustain friendships with their peers.

PROCEDURES FOR ALLOCATING CHILDREN TO CLASSES

Junior Infants

- As children coming in to Junior Infants are new to the school, it is impossible to ensure that each class has an even spread of abilities.

- We do undertake to ensure a balanced allocation of girls and boys to each class, while also being mindful of the numbers of children with specific educational needs (that have been identified to us prior to the child starting school) and children for whom English is not their first language.
- We also consult with the parents of twins to establish their preference for placing the siblings in the same class or separating them.
- At the end of Junior Infants, it is the norm for each class to move on as a unit to Senior Infants to a new teacher. It may occasionally be necessary for a teacher to take a class for both Junior and Senior Infants but this would not be the norm.

CHILDREN WHO ARE ENROLLED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, children who are enrolled in the school during the course of the school year will be allocated to the age appropriate class with the fewest number of students, at the time of enrolment.

RE- FORMING CLASS GROUPINGS

Re-Forming class groupings is not common practice in St. John's and it is intended that children will remain with the group that they were assigned to in Junior Infants until they leave our school.

However, it is prudent that there is provision within this policy for the reformation of class groupings in particular instances such as:

The dynamic of the class grouping is no longer conducive to a safe, secure and productive classroom environment

- Instances of anti-social behaviour within the group, repeated over a number of years
- Repeated instances relating to school's Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Acceptable Usage Policies over a number of years

N.B. Re-Forming a class grouping will only be considered after all targeted interventions relating to the above policies have been implemented and have not have the desired impact.

Re-Forming a class grouping will be necessary if the school gains or loses a mainstream teaching post. School management along with relevant school personnel will determine which class group should be re-formed as well as the length of time that they should be reformed for. The Board of Management must approve and ratify the decision.

Process for Re-Forming Class Grouping

1. Consultation between Principal, Assistant Principal, Class Teacher, Affiliated Staff and previous Class Teacher (s)
2. Principal will present analysis to Board of Management at first available opportunity
3. Board of Management must approve and ratify decision to re-form class
4. Parents and pupils are informed of the decision to re-form the class
5. Principal, Assistant Principal and current class teachers consult on new class arrangement
6. New class formation made known to pupils and parents

RE-ALLOCATING A CHILD INTO ANOTHER CLASS GROUPING

Re-allocating a child into another class grouping is not common practice in St. John's and it is intended that children will remain with the group that they were assigned to in Junior Infants until they leave our school.

However, there is provision within this policy for the re-allocation of a child to another class grouping in exceptional circumstances such as:

- Health & Safety concerns relating to a specific medical or educational need
- Remaining in their existing class group is impacting negatively on the child's learning and the learning of their peers

N.B. Re-Allocating a child will only be considered after all targeted interventions have been implemented and all practical steps have been taken and have not have the desired impact.

The re-allocation of a child to another class grouping can only happen after consultation with the parents/guardians of the child.