



Class Mixing Policy

Policy Ratified: Summer Term, 2026
To be reviewed: Summer Term, 2027

'Nurturing Brilliant, Resilient Minds'

Class Mixing Policy Rationale

- To create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- To enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school
- To encourage resilience in developing friendships in a safe, comfortable environment
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfers and transition during phases
- To ensure classes are balanced and inclusive, taking into account children's needs, gender and stages of development

Principles

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of current and previous class teachers and the Senior Leadership Team
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions
- We will communicate the criteria for class mixing in an open and transparent way
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes

Criteria for Class Mixing

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

- Gender
- Range of educational, social and personal needs
- Level of maturity
- Friendships - Taking into consideration children's views and teachers' views

Friendships

Over the course of their Primary years, children will have a range of friendship experiences. We find that some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others can stand the test of time. With that in mind, and as we prepare to draw up the class lists, we will use observations of the children in the classroom and at play to inform our decision making.

When will mixing classes happen?

Historically, classes have often mixed at the end of Year 2, in preparation for all children due to attend Wilshere-Dacre in Year 3. However, the school will review each year group annually and if there have been significant changes or there is an imbalance in a year group,

we will consider whether we need to make changes to classes prior to this transition. In most cases, a class will only be mixed once in their time at Strathmore.

Timescales

- Parents will be reminded of the Class Mixing Policy annually.
- The school will make a judgement on whether it will benefit the children to mix at the end of the Spring Term or beginning of Summer Term.
- Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants discuss their observations of friendships in the second half of Spring term and the first half of the Summer term.
- Parents will be informed of the intention to mix classes. An opportunity may be given to share questions and attend a meeting with the teachers and Senior Leadership Team.
- The school will make a judgement on whether the children are offered the opportunity to submit up to four names of children that they would like to be in class with. This will depend on the reasons for class mixing.
- Class lists are drawn up and shared with the Senior Leadership Team (June).
- Class lists approved by Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher (June).
- Class lists communicated to parents and children at the end of June/early July as part of the usual end of year arrangements.
- Opportunities will be made in the Summer Term for children in both classes to mix.

Review

The Senior Leadership Team will review the process and criteria for each year's class mixing arrangements at the beginning of each Summer Term.