

Class Allocation Policy

St. Enda's National School

May 2017

1. Background and Rationale

Department of Education and Skills Information Circular 07/2016 (STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR THE 2016/17 SCHOOL YEAR) which is available to the public on www.education.ie, states that a school will be entitled to a 5th mainstream class teacher if there are 114 pupils on roll on September 30th the previous year.

As a result it will be necessary to divide the current four classes to ensure balanced classes in accordance with the terms of DES Circular 20/07. The criteria for dividing the class will rest ultimately with the Board of Management. These criteria will serve for the 2017/2018 academic year where composite classes will be necessary.

2. Aims and objectives of this policy

- To provide a framework for the splitting of classes.
- To outline the criteria on which children are selected to be placed in mixed classes.

3. Framework for the splitting of classes

It is the policy in St. Enda's National School, in accordance with the terms of Circular 07/2016 to ensure that the number of pupils in any class is kept as low as possible, taking all relevant contextual factors into account (e.g. classroom accommodation, fluctuating enrolment etc.). In particular, the Principal will try to ensure that there is an equitable distribution of pupils in mainstream classes and that the differential between the largest and smallest classes is kept to a minimum.

The pupil-teacher ratio is dictated annually by the government budget and schools have no control over this. However, the teacher will ensure that each pupil in each class will be working on the set of skills from the national curriculum for the correct class.

4. Criteria for splitting classes:

Children are grouped in such a way so as to maximise the learning outcomes for *each child*. When dividing a class into groups, to be placed in separate classes, there are certain criteria to be taken into consideration:

1. Classes will be split in an open and transparent manner by age.
2. Teacher input - taking special needs into account
3. Classroom accommodation.

Classes that have been split reunite daily to play together on the playground/sports field during breaks so they can maintain existing friendships as well as make new friends in the new group. This increases their circle of friends and their abilities to form new friendships.

To maintain fairness and transparency for all pupils and parents the decision regarding which class a pupil is placed in is final.

5 The allocation of teachers to mixed classes

It is the duty of the Principal as per Circular 16/73 to assign teaching duties.

6 Review

This policy will be reviewed in the 2017/2018 school year.

7. Ratification

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on _____[date]

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____
Principal