CLASSROOM PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

Ardross Primary School class structure is based on the professional judgement of staff considering the students' academic, physical, behavioural, social and emotional needs. Classes are formed aligned to the Department of Education's guidelines and school specific contextual factors.

SCHOOL COMMITMENT

The school commits to supporting the Class Placement Guidelines by:

- Using informed professional judgement when deciding class placements; and
- Considering available information to assist the process.

PARENT AND CARER COMMITMENT

Parents and carers commit to supporting the school's Class Placement Guidelines by:

- Supporting and accepting the school's professional decisions.
- Being positive with their child about the class placement decision that has been made.

GUIDELINES

Factors influencing class structure include:

- The educational needs of the students
- The projected number of students in each year level
- The ratio of girls to boys
- The constraints of resources and facilities
- Specialist teachers and staff expertise
- Composite classes required due to enrolment numbers

PROCESS

1. The Executive Team determines class structure options for the following year based on anticipated enrolments, trends and the need for flexibility.
2. Any parents/guardian requests must be aligned with the Class Placement Guidelines (Teacher requests will not be considered).
3. Parent or guardian requests must be submitted in writing to the principal by the published deadline in Term 4.
4. Parent information is referenced with other sources during the class placement process. Requests will be considered but they cannot be guaranteed.
5. Staff members collaborate on the placement of their current students for the following year.

Factors considered in the placement of students include:

- Academic performance
- Work habits e.g. ability to work independently
- Behaviour

- Social network- broaden social networks and foster existing friendships
- Special educational and complex needs of a student
- Gender balance
- School psychologist's recommendations

The final decision on class placement remains with the principal**.**

PUBLISHED CLASS LISTS

- Class lists will be published up to two days prior to the new school year commencing.
- Changes to class structure or teacher allocation may be required before the start of the school year dependent on increased or decreased enrolments over the holiday period.
- Classes will remain as published subject to exceptional circumstances

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why does the school have some split grade classes instead of all straight classes? As a Public School, every student who resides in our boundary, between Years Pre-primary and 6, is guaranteed an enrolment place, so numbers will never balance perfectly for straight classes.

As staffing is dependent upon the enrolment in each grade, multi-aged or combined classes may occur. This practice is well supported by research and our beliefs about how children learn. It is also often a practical necessity with our enrolment numbers and maximum class sizes, as per relevant Industrial Awards and Agreements

What is a reasonable class size?

The Department of Education has recommended maximum class sizes for various year levels, hence split class become unavoidable. Our school always starts the year within these recommendations. If numbers increase during the year, additional support is provided to teachers, usually in the form of additional relief days or education assistants. On very rare occasions, schools may need to restructure their classes to accommodate student growth throughout the year.

Maximum recommended class sizes

Kindergarten - 20 Pre-primary - 27 Yr. 1-3 - 24 Yr. 4-6 - 32

How do teachers cover multiple year level curriculums?

The curriculum guides what teachers must cover in a given year. More importantly however, is that students receive the curriculum content that allows them to progress and achieve. This might mean modifying or extending the curriculum. It is quite common that in any given class, a teacher will need to support or extend students who may be ahead, or behind the given curriculum. This is done through group or individual plans. As such, being in a split class is less of a factor, than receiving the curriculum content that is needed and teachers are highly skilled and supported at achieving this.

Ardross Primary School
Motivate. Educate. Celebrate

When will I know my child's placement?

Parents of children in Kindergarten are informed of their child's placement mid-term 4. The Pre-primary to Year 6 will receive a COMPASS notice notifying them of their child/ren class. Classes are always subject to change as new enrolments are common in the first weeks of the year.

Can I request my child's placement with another child in the classroom or not be placed with another particular child?

While some parents make a friendship request, the decision is complex. Often, a request is received from one family to place particular children together, while the second family requests that same children be placed in separate classes. The final decision on placement rests with the principal. Teachers also ask children to compose friendship lists at the end of each year and these lists are factored in when making new classes. Often, children placed with best friends will work and play exclusively with each other, and this does not promote the social interaction we try to foster. We also find young children change best friends. When allocating children to classes, we endeavour to foster positive social interaction across a year group, by making socially balanced classes.

When I get my child's class placement, can I request that it be changed?

The class placements are considered final. Changes to placements are rare, due to the fact they often cause a chain reaction and impact on the class balance, which in turn is unfair to many students within the group. While we feel we consider the individual child during the placement process, parents must realise their child is part of a complex equation in school placements.

What if my child is having difficulty in his/her new placement after school has started?

We will do everything we can to problem solve. Parents need to talk to the teacher so the child's needs can be addressed.

My child has been in a composite class this year; will they avoid one next year?

Teachers will consider factors such as history of split classes, but research does show there is no negative impact academically, from being in split classes. Parent concern regarding consecutive years in split classes, tends to focus on friendship groups, hence staff will consider this each year.

Ratified by the APS School Board June 2025