



Alma Park Primary School
Celebrating Difference, Achieving Together

Class Mixing Policy

2024-27

Date Completed: April 2024

Written by: Kathy Hughes

Ratified: May 2024

Review: September 2027



Alma Park Primary School

Celebrating Difference, Achieving Together

At Alma Park, we believe our children learn best in an inclusive and supportive environment. From time to time we may decide there is a need to mix the two classes in a year group. We will not mix classes as a matter of course, but reserve the right to mix classes if we feel the need arises. It is unlikely classes will be mixed more than every two years. In life, we are often thrown into new groups in almost everything we do (work, clubs, societies, families, friends). Coping with changes to our social groupings and learning to adapt ourselves to this change is normal and an important life skill.

Why might we decide to mix classes?

Due to the way children enter our school, (one Nursery into two Reception classes, joined by new children from other Nursery provisions) and the way children come and go from time to time, this sometimes leaves us with two classes in a year group that are significantly different in one way or another.

These are some of the main reasons we may decide to mix classes:

- Significantly uneven gender split
- Significant difference in attainment between classes
- Significant difference in other key factors (English as an Additional Language, Special Educational Needs, Social & Emotional Needs etc)
- Significant difference in class numbers
- Significant and ongoing friendship issues or the need to widen/develop friendships
- Significant difference in the 'character' of one class compared to another due to the combination of personalities (one class being very quiet, another very spirited)

Principles

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, the Assistant Head Teachers and the Headteacher
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes

The process and how we will mix classes

- We discuss this as a team and decide on the rationale in our process and approach
- Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants lead the discussion because they know the children best
- Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants observe the children's friendships at work and play
- Class Teachers meet to ensure a good balance of friendships, range of educational, social and personal needs, gender and maturity are represented in each class
- Assistant Head Teachers meet with Class Teachers to discuss and finalise groupings
- Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team meet and approve classes
- We understand change can be tricky and will listen and be supportive through the transition process
- We will have a planned transition process so that children can get used to their new classes BEFORE the Summer holiday.
- New Classes are shared with parents and children in July



Alma Park Primary School

Celebrating Difference, Achieving Together

The children's opinions are important to us at Alma Park so we will involve the children themselves in our decision. It is not our intention to separate good friendships and, of course, the children will still be spending valuable time together out on the playground at break and dinner times and on year group trips and assemblies. The children's thoughts and opinions will be taken into account when we decide the class lists and every child should have some close friends in their new class.

Review

The Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team will review the process and criteria for each year's class mixing arrangements at the beginning of each Summer Term ahead of the following year's class mixing. The decision of the Head teacher and the Senior leadership Team will be final.