

# Composite Classes

## A Guide for Parents

### What are composite classes?

Composite classes occur where children from two or more year stages are grouped together e.g. P1/2 or P5/6.

### Why do composite classes have to be formed?

Schools receive a total number of teaching staff, including the Head Teacher, based on the number of children on the school roll. No account is taken of the number of children at each year stage.

In law, the maximum number of children in classes are:-

P1 25  
P2 30  
P3 30  
P4 33  
P5 33  
P6 33  
P7 33

Composite classes are formed when the number of children at a year stage is greater than that allowed, or where the number is much smaller than the number allowed.

A composite class has a maximum number of 25 children.

### How are composite classes formed?

In all classes there will be a range of abilities. Children already work in groups in their classes according to their stage of learning.

When making decisions on which children will be included in a composite class, the Head Teacher will consider the following:

- Existing language groupings
- Attainment levels
- Evidence of child's work

### When will a composite class be formed?

Composite classes will be formed towards the end of an academic year in preparation for the following session. This will usually be during the first two weeks in June.

Class teachers may not yet be allocated to schools at this time. This is due to the final allocation of newly qualified teachers and other staff changes.

## Who decides?

The staffing allocation for each school is determined by Education Services.

Responsibility for class structure rests with the Head Teacher. Children are allocated to classes after discussion with promoted staff, class teachers and early education staff if appropriate.

## What happens next?

The Head Teacher will:

- Advise the Parent Council of class structures
- Send a letter to all parents/carers of these children outlining the new class structure and the pupil's class
- Extend an invitation to all parents/carers of these children to contact the school should they wish to discuss these arrangements.

## Can a composite class continue for a second year?

In many cases, a composite class can successfully continue as a class group for a second year or more. Indeed, some children may be in a composite class throughout their time in Primary School.

## What is the Authority's view?

- Children who are taught in a composite class have the same learning opportunities as children who are in a straight class
- There will be opportunities for year groups to come together for particular educational and social activities
- All children are actively encouraged to achieve their full potential in a supportive, challenging and motivating educational environment

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