

**Winthrop Primary School – Class Placement Policy 2024- 2025**

**Rationale:**

To provide clarity to the Winthrop Primary School community regarding the process for class placement of students.

**Purpose**

Classes are formed to provide the best possible learning environment for students within budgetary constraints and Department of Education guidelines. Individual class placements are based on teacher professional judgements about students' educational needs.

**Process:**

• Principal presents the staff with the anticipated year numbers for the following year and possible class groupings (i.e. number of year level classes, split classes).

• Staff agree on the best possible groupings based on budgetary, educational guidelines and student factors.

 • Staff members meet to determine the placements of their current students for the following year taking into consideration the criteria listed below:

• Balance of academic performance

• Gender

• Behaviour and social development

• Students with special needs and students at educational risk

 • School Psychologist recommendations

• Previous class placements

Class lists are submitted to the Principal for final ratification.

Class teachers meet at the end of the year to discuss each child’s transition using the Handover information. Winthrop Primary staff are committed to meeting the educational needs of all students.

Parents are encouraged to organise a meeting with the classroom teacher in the first instance and/or principal following the Communication and Complaints Policy if there are concerns with the educational and/or social progress of their child.

**Frequently asked questions:**

**Why do we leave class placement in the hands of the teaching staff?**

As professional educators we know our students and how they learn. We review both academic and social information about our cohorts and we work closely together to ensure student needs are considered in placing a child. We respect that parents know their children best, however when constructing a class we consider the needs of both the individual and the class balance as a whole.

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**Why does the school have some split (composite) year level classes?**

Staffing is dependent on the enrolment numbers. Therefore, split grade classes are often necessary to ensure that we have appropriate, sized classes for each year level. Research, which has been predominantly conducted in primary schools, suggests there is no discernible difference between composite and straight grade classrooms in terms of academic performance, however, positive social outcomes, such as student self-concept, social contacts and groupings, and leadership skills have been recognised together with a range of other benefits including;

* A better sense of reality and better coping skills and resilience.
* No difference in academic achievement between children in split classes versus straight grades.
* Less competition and more cooperation among students.
* The ability to learn at different paces.
* Enriching and challenging experiences for younger students.
* Teaching at the level of the older students.
* Composite classrooms are more flexible; allow children to work at their own pace
* mentoring opportunities that lift their self-esteem

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**Can I request my child to be placed with another child or not placed with another child?**

You, you can make requests which may be considered by the principal if there is a significant social or learning consideration. Be assured that the class placement process is undertaken by school staff who know your child, and their friendship groups and that placing them without that particular friend may be so that your child expands their friendship base. As part of their learning, children need to develop skills to to work and socialise with range of peers and to develop new friendships throughout the course of their schooling.

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Please do consider too, that there are times where one parent will request their child be placed with another, where the other parent has conversely requested their child not be placed with the peer. In the interests of confidentiality we respect the privacy of both parties so you may not be privy to contextual information.

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**When will I know my child’s placement?**

Your child’s class placement will be communicated via Connect notification on the last Friday, a weekend before the commencement of the new school year.

**What if my child or I am unhappy with my child’s placement?**

Much planning, though and time goes into placing students in classes each year, considering a range of social and academic aspects. Every effort is made to place each child in a learning environment which is supportive, happy, productive and successful. For this reason, once class lists are published, given the rigorous nature of the placement process requested changes will not be made.

Parents can talk to the principal or deputy principal about their concerns, however should know that in all but extenuating circumstances, class placement is final.

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| Reviewed:  | Next Review:  |
| August 2023  | August 2025  |