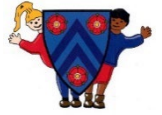


Marshfield CE VC Primary School

'Learning Together, Inspiring Each Other, Achieving Our Best'

Class Organisation Guidelines

Ratified by Governing Body on:	Date: 17/05/2023
Due for review:	Date: March 2025



Class Organisation Guidelines

Rationale

Marshfield CE VC Primary School is a smaller than average primary school with 6 classrooms, a library, school hall and small group room all set within spacious grounds.

As the Primary Curriculum (including EYFS), involves 7 year groups, we will always need to have at least 1 mixed year group per academic year. Due to the changing numbers on roll each year, the mix of year groups changes year on year and no two years are the same. Every child will spend at least one year in the same classroom: this does not mean they are repeating a year – they are remaining in the same room and will be taught the appropriate curriculum for their academic age and/or individual needs.

Class structure

Given seven year groups and a class structure that changes depending on numbers, there will inevitably be mixed year classes across the school. The teaching team has a clear understanding of the needs of mixed year groups and provide a differentiated curriculum to address the fact that children will inevitably have to stay in the same classroom for two years at some stage during their time at the school. Time is given to this.

Criteria used to split year groups

The school will use age as the only criterion to make decisions on how to split the year groups. We believe that age is the fairest criterion because all other criteria involve subjective judgements. A child's ability and friendship group may change over time, but a child's date of birth remains the same. In addition to this, consideration will also be given to creating a balanced gender split as far as possible.

The school believes that basing these decisions on age, rather than ability, is supportive of children as individuals – we take the view that it can be damaging to a child's self-esteem to think that they are not going to the next class because they are not clever enough.

Exceptions may be made only if parents/carers request that siblings should not be in the same class and for children with special educational needs.

To support this policy, the school carefully tracks each child's progress to assess their level of attainment and the gaps in their knowledge and understanding. This is used as a tool to inform planning and teaching and, therefore, ensures that children are taught according to their individual needs, not to their class or year group. Time for careful tracking and planning is given via an INSET every year.

Parents/carers who have concerns should speak to the Head who will explain how the curriculum will be differentiated.

Pupils joining the school during an academic year will be placed in the class that has room, appropriate to their year group, but not necessarily according to their age.

Other activities and privileges that are afforded to children as they progress up the school will be awarded to year groups, and will therefore not be affected by class organisation decisions.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Head:

Chair:

Date: