

BRACKLA PRIMARY SCHOOL



MIXED AGE CLASSES POLICY

Date Adopted: 15.05.24	Chairperson: Mrs J Czajkowski (Chair of Governors)
Date of Renewal: May 2026	Headteacher: Mrs K John

Brackla Primary School: Mixed Age Classes Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent and transparent process for mixed age classes in Brackla Primary School. In some years, it may be necessary to have a mixture of single age classes and mixed age classes and it is highly likely that pupils will experience being in a mixed age class during their time in primary school.

Mixed age classes are formed to make efficient use of teaching staff as the number of teachers in primary school is based upon the total school roll, not on the number of pupils in any single year group.

Principles and Procedures

The principles of the policy are that:

- Delivering the best educational experience for all pupils is paramount;
- It is the responsibility of the class teacher to treat all pupils as individuals ensuring every pupil is making good progress;
- The Headteacher will establish a mixed age class using the priority order below, however, the Headteacher will have the flexibility to exercise discretion where this is in the best interest of the pupils concerned (i.e. pupils who have behavioural, learning or social needs).

Priority Order

- Combining whole year groups together (this is only possible in small cohorts);
- Mixed age classes will be established on the pupil's age, for example in Brackla the Pupil Assisted Number (PAN) is 45 and if there were a cohort of 45 pupils in both Year 3 and 4, there would be a straight Year 3 and Year 4 class and a mixed class consisting of 15 of the oldest Year 3 and 15 of the youngest Year 4.

Other Factors

Other factors taken into account when establishing mixed classes will include:

- Gender balance - if there is an imbalance of boys and girls;
- Social aptitude - if in the opinion of the Headteacher following consultation with the staff, a pupil would benefit from being placed in a certain class;
- The placement of siblings (including twins, triplets etc.) in a mixed class will be discussed and agreed with parents/carers;

Wherever possible, pupils of similar ages will be located close together to facilitate peer groups and socialisation. Classes will be formed in the summer term for the coming school year and pupils and parents/carers will be informed. In exceptional circumstances (e.g significant increase/decrease in pupil numbers during the year), class restructuring may have to take place during: summer break; at the beginning or during the school year. If this occurs, parents/carers will be informed as quickly as possible.

Parent/Carer Concerns

While there is no formal right to appeal against a decision on a pupil joining a mixed class, we will always provide the parents with the reasons and the rationale for the decision.

If a parent/carer feels that the school has not adhered to this policy, they can raise their concerns with the Headteacher and if they are still not satisfied they can follow the school's complaints policy and procedures.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body every two years or earlier if deemed necessary.