



# Willow Bank Junior School

## ***Class Mixing Policy***

*Non-statutory policy*

<b><i>Version</i></b>	<b><i>Last Review</i></b>	<b><i>Next Review</i></b>	<b><i>Committee</i></b>	<b><i>Comments</i></b>
1.0	June 2022	June 2024	Teaching and Learning	Class mixing introduced
1.0	July 2024	July 2026	FGB	Reviewed. No Changes to policy.

## **Rationale**

- To create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- To enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer and transition during phases
- To promote a greater sense of community in a two-form entry junior school

## **Principles**

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, Senior Leadership Team 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**

- 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
- Class teachers in each year group meet together to discuss classes
- Lists are shared at staff meetings so that wider staff team can identify and consider historical and relevant issues which might impact classes
- Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team meet and approve classes
- Children visit new classes and teachers as part of transition in July.

## **Criteria for Class Mixing**

Classes will be mixed to achieve a good balance according to the following criteria:

- Gender
- Range of educational, social and personal needs
- Level of maturity
- Friendships\* and relationships (positive and negative)

\*Friendships: Over the course of their Primary years, children will have a range of friendship experiences. We find that some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others can stand the test of time. With that in mind and as we prepare to draw up the class lists, we will use observations of the children in the classroom and at play to inform our decision making.

## **Timescales**

- Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants discuss their observations of friendships in the Summer Term
- Observations are considered along with the other criteria after May half-term
- Class lists are drawn up and shared with wider staff team (June)
- Class lists approved by Headteacher (July)
- Children visit new teachers in new class groups as part of transition process in July.

## **Review**

The Senior Leadership Team and Headteacher 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.