

Splitting Classes Policy

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School Policies

Oylegate N.S.

Policy on Splitting Classes

Introduction

This policy was the product of whole-staff collaboration in tandem with the staff, parents and Board of Management of Oylegate N.S.

Rationale

It is often necessary to divide and combine class groups into mixed classes, depending on the numbers of class teachers and pupils of a certain year group.

Aims and Objectives of this Policy

To provide a framework for the splitting of classes outline the criteria on which children are selected to be placed in mixed or straight classes

Framework for the splitting of classes

At the time of planning for the coming school year, the Principal will look at the overall numbers in each year group and the number of teachers available to teach them. He, in concert with the in-school management (ISM) team, will decide how best to organise classes.

Criteria on which Children are selected to be placed in mixed or straight classes

Towards the end of the current school year, the ISM team will divide the total of pupils by the amount of class teachers to determine a quota for each class. Classes will be split on a 'one-boy, one-girl' basis, beginning with the eldest, until the quota has been reached. Allowance will be made for special needs children, children with reports from medical/professionals, individual class numbers and other relevant factors that may increase or decrease the quota figure for a class or classes. Once the class groupings have been decided upon, it will not be possible to change or alter them. Oylegate N.S. will adhere to

this constraint strictly, and without exception, as any changes would undermine the whole policy.

Some Important Considerations

Classes divided on the basis of "‘one-boy, one-girl’ beginning with the eldest" provide complete transparency while allowing for gender balance and maximising chances of friendship opportunities. The process of forming new friendships is a life skill which is important to develop. A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in the new groups. It will seldom be possible to satisfy all parents’ concerns. The Principal must consider the needs of all stakeholders. It has been found in the past that parental worries over a child’s placement in a class quickly disappear once the child begins in the class, provided that parental encouragement and support are present.

The allocation of teachers to mixed classes

It is the duty of the Principal as per Circular 16/73 to assign teaching duties.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in 2014.