

Class Placement Guidelines

RATIONALE

Jolimont Primary School creates its class structure based on the professional judgement of staff taking into account the students' academic, social and emotional needs, and resources provided.

PROCESS

The administration team and teaching staff establish class structures for the following year based upon anticipated enrolments and estimated funds indicated by the student centred funding model to employ teaching staff.

Factors staff take into consideration when allocating students to classes:

- Projected number of students in each year level and past trends
- Ratio of boys to girls
- Spread of students with respect to academic performance, social development and classroom behaviour
- The best educational needs of the student
- School psychologist recommendations
- Special circumstances such as twins or individual family members
- Constraints of resources or facilities

Forming Composite Classes:

- Independent students
- Student maturity and behaviour
- Social development
- Social network
- Previous class placements
- Special needs such as twins and family situations
- School psychologist recommendations

Final class list submissions will be ratified by the principal.

Parent Requests:

- Parents are able to make a class placement request based on educational needs
- Parents will be notified in the school newsletter to send a written submission with their reasons, addressed to "The Principal" and marked "Confidential" by a set date.
- All written parent requests that arrive by the due date will be considered based on educational

merits and in relation to the class structure process outlined above

- Any late submissions will not be considered
- The school cannot guarantee that parent requests will be met

Advertisement of Class Lists:

- Class lists will be made available for parents to view in the staff room window
- Class lists will be placed for viewing a minimum of 2 days before students begin
- Please do not photograph class lists

PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS IN CLASSES

Outlined below is the process used at Jolimont Primary to place students in classes. Below are some frequently asked questions parents may have about class placement. A copy of the Class Placement Policy, endorsed by the School Board, is included as an appendix.

Jolimont Primary staff are committed to meeting the educational needs of all students. A great deal of thought, staff collaboration, psych recommendations, planning and time goes into placing children. Every effort is made to place each child in a learning environment that is happy, productive and successful.

What are the criteria we use to make up class lists? What is taken into consideration to create class lists?

Factors influencing class structure are:

- the educational needs of the students;
- the projected number of students in each year level;
- the ratio of girls to boys;
- projected enrolments during the year based on past trends;
- the number of teachers employed at the school; and
- resources and facilities.

Factors which are considered in the placement of

students include:

- academic performance - judgements over time
- work habits eg. ability to work independently
- behaviour
- gender
- social network
- social maturity
- special needs eg. twins, siblings

Should there be more than one class in a particular year level, or the need to form a split grade class, the professional judgement of the principal, administration team and relevant teaching staff will decide the placement of individual students.

Parent input regarding their child's educational needs will be considered. Requests in relation to choice of teacher will not be considered as a placement factor.

What is the process for placing students into classes?

Based on the criteria listed above, teaching staff and administration meet mid Term 4 to establish classes for the following school year. Teachers of the current year level meet with the other year level colleagues to create the class lists (i.e. Year 2 teachers decide Year 3 placements etc.).

Teachers ensure each new class has:

- a balance of academic ability
- gender balance
- socially balanced groups and children from existing classes, so new friendships can be formed.

During this process, changes and adjustments are made. Each change may trigger a chain reaction of other changes.

It is acknowledged by all that friendships are important. However to ensure balanced classes as outlined above, friendship groups are not a primary determining factor in class placement and this is not part of our Class Placement Policy.

Proposed class lists are submitted to the principal and administration team for final ratification.

Why do we ask parents to leave class placement

in the hands of the teaching staff?

As professional educators we strive to make the right choices taking into account all the information we have to hand. While it is certainly true that parents know their children the best, when a parent requests a specific placement for their child, they do not have all the relevant information. Teachers, on the other hand, have the academic and social information about all children in a particular year level.

When will I know my child's placement?

Parents of children in kindergarten are informed of their child's placement mid Term 4, at the parent teacher orientation meeting. The Pre primary to Year 6 class lists, for the following year, are displayed in front of the staff room during the first week back the following year. Class structures or teacher allocation may need to change for the start of the year if we have increased or decreased enrolments.

Can I request a particular teacher for my child either in writing or through discussion with my child's present teacher?

No, this is not part of the Class Placement policy.

Can I request my child's placement with another child's in the classroom? Or, can I request my child not be placed with another particular child?

While some parents make a friendship request, the decision is complex. A number of times, I have received a request from one family to place particular children together, while the second family requests that same children be placed in separate classes. The final decision on placement rests with the principal.

Often children placed with best friends will work and play exclusively with each other, and this does not promote the social interaction we try to foster. We also find young children change best friends.

When allocating children to classes, we endeavour

to foster positive social interaction across a year group, by making socially balanced classes and to help prevent non-constructive relationships.

If your child is having difficulty with a student in his/her class, please inform the teacher or the associate principal, so problem solving can take place. This is the aspect of the school experience where students learn to function socially with all kinds of people.

Do teachers request certain student placements into their classes?

No as teachers are not assigned to a class until after the class placement process. Teachers focus on class balance to ensure a successful year for all classes.

When I get my child's class placement, can I request that it be changed?

You may talk with the associate principal or principal about your concerns and be assured that those concerns will be shared with the teacher so your child's anxieties will be addressed. Teachers are expected to have the skills to help children adjust.

The class placements are considered final. Changes to placements are rare due to the fact they often cause a chain reaction and impact on the class balance. While we feel we consider the individual child during the placement process, parents must realise their child is part of a complex equation.

What if my child is having difficulty in his/her new placement after school has started? Can we request a change then?

Parents need to talk to the teacher, the associate principal or principal, so the child's needs can be addressed and the issue resolved.

Parents play a significant by being as positive and encouraging as possible to their children in this process. If you have any more questions, please feel free to contact one of the administration staff or your child's teacher.

Barbara Iffla
Principal