

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. Every effort is made to place each child in a learning environment that will be happy, productive and successful.

PROCESS

The administration team and teaching staff establish class structures for the following year based upon anticipated enrolments, whilst not exceeding the recommended class sizes outlined in the industrial agreements, ensuring it is within the 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 for academic performance, social development and behaviour.
- School psychologist recommendations.
- The need for support for students with special needs or learning difficulties.
- The social dynamics of the cohort of students.
- The creation of equitable class size.

Although each factor is important, each is weighted differently depending upon the individual circumstances under discussion.

Forming composite/split 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 by Week 5, Term 4 based on educational needs and psychological needs only, however the school cannot guarantee that parent requests will be met.

Class List Notification:

Parents will receive an email the week after school finishes with the intended class list for their child. This of course may change due to enrolment numbers and staffing changes.

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.

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?

Occasionally, we receive a request from one family to place particular children together, while the second family requests the 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.

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.

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

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.

Our past experience with this process has shown that parent and student anxieties about a particular class placement usually resolve within the first week of school.

You may talk with the associate principal or principal about your concerns and be assured that those concerns will be shared with the teacher as they are expected to have the skills to help children adjust.

Finally

Parents play a significant role 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*

Ratified by: Jolimont School Board Semester 1 2022.