

Here are some comments
from parents and pupils

Our Pupils told us

"I made some great
friends and they helped
me "

"the other kids
helped me out with
my learning"

"I enjoy mixing with other children and
I have gained confidence through being
in a composite class"

Our Parents told us

'When children are placed into a composite
class from a young age it gives them the
chance to go through the school years with
the same crowd of friends whilst giving them
the opportunity to have friends in another
year group.'

'For a composite class when the balance is right
then children can benefit
from the smaller numbers in the classroom for
learning.'



If you have any further
questions please contact
the school. We will be happy
to discuss this with you.

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Composite Classes

Information

for Parents / Carers



Kindness, Effort, Respect

We have developed this leaflet through discussions with parents/carers, pupils and with our parent council. We have considered some FAQs for parents/carers on composite classes, we hope you find this useful.

Background

Class sizes in Scottish primary schools are set by government regulation as follows: -

P1 - 25, P2 – 30, P3 – 30, P4 -7 – 33

Schools aim to deliver a high-quality education, whilst making efficient use of resources. Schools must put in place a class organisation that supports these two objectives, and this may include forming composite classes, which have existed in Scottish schools since schools were established.

What is a composite class?

Composite classes are where children from two or more stages are grouped together and can be found in schools of all sizes. In small schools multi-stage composites are common. Composite classes have a class size maximum of 25. Where possible schools will try to have a minimum of 3 pupils at a stage within a composite class.

Why are composite classes formed?

Schools are staffed to agreed standards, mainly based on the number of pupils in the school. However, the number of children in each stage will vary. This means that Head Teachers make decisions to organise classes to make best use of available staff, resources and space to meet pupils' needs. Head teachers are also required to ensure that in areas of school roll growth, spaces are available to pupils joining the school throughout the academic session.

How are children identified for a composite class? The head teacher, along with key staff, will consider the organisation of composite classes according to individual needs to ensure the best teaching and learning experience for every pupil. In forming such classes, the head teacher will take account of a range of factors including;

- ❖ chronological age
- ❖ gender mix
- ❖ academic ability
- ❖ personal and social development

The criteria as set out are not ranked in any order.

When will I be informed if my child is to be in a composite class?

The head teacher will inform you as to the class your child will be in as soon as the class organisation for the school year has been finalised. Normally this would be in mid-June, however, circumstances may arise where the head teacher will have to adjust the class organisation to accommodate an unexpected intake of pupils.

Will my child have a different learning experience through being taught in a composite class? No. Traditionally teachers have grouped pupils of similar ability for learning and teaching purposes within straight classes. Teachers have always been expected to organise learning in a way which meets the needs of the individual who have a range of ability levels within any one class.

My child is at P2 stage and is being placed in a P2/P1 composite. How does a teacher settle in the new intake and ensure continuity in my child's education?

The head teacher will ensure that support is provided to the class teacher to help settle in the new intake. Each individual child's learning progresses from what they have already learned, and the child will follow the experiences and outcomes at the appropriate level from Curriculum for Excellence.

If my child is placed in a composite class will he/she continue in that class throughout his/her primary school education?

A child placed in any class will not necessarily progress through school with the same group of pupils, as the class organisation may change. This can result from pupil numbers changing at particular stages, or from the different maximum class sizes that can be formed at different stages.

If my child is placed in a composite class will there be opportunities for my child to continue to work and socialise with the friends, he/she has established at previous stages within the school?

Yes. Your child will continue to meet and interact with previous classmates at social times, during the school day and during class times through different teaching arrangements. There may also be opportunities for children to work together on projects and events across classes and stages.

Can I refuse to have my child taught in a composite class?

No. The management of class organisation in schools is the responsibility of each head teacher. School staff consult regularly with parents regarding their children's progress. Where there are specific concerns about a child's learning or progress, schools have systems for consulting or communicating with individual parents on a more frequent basis.

