



Gaelscoil Riada

Bóthar Ráithín: Baile Atha an Rí: Co. na Gaillimhe. Fón: (091)850638

Uimhir Rolla: 20237T

Príomhoide: Maeve Ní Fhlaithearta

Policy on Splitting Classes

Introduction

This policy was the product of whole-staff collaboration. It was discussed at the Board of Management meeting on 31st March 2011. It was reviewed by the school staff on the 11th May 2011

This policy was reviewed by school staff in May 2014.

Rationale

Gaelscoil Riada has nine mainstream class teachers. There are eight levels in Primary school and for the 2014 school year we will have two streams of Junior Infants, Senior Infants and First Class. Therefore it is inevitable that one or more classes may need to be split from year to year.

Aims and Objectives of this Policy

- To provide a framework for the splitting of classes
- To outline the criteria on which children are selected to be placed in multi-grade classes
- To outline the criteria for placing children in particular mixed-class groups
- To set out the supports which may be used to ensure the best learning outcomes for all children in mixed classes

Framework for the Splitting of Classes

At the time of planning the classes for the coming year, the Principal will look at the overall numbers in each year group and the number of teachers available to teach them. He/She will decide how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities for all children.

Mixed Class Policy Criteria

When determining the eligibility of pupils for participation in mixed class units, consideration will be taken of the following criteria.

Teacher knowledge: *professional opinion about the pupil*

Individual needs of the child: *academic ability, social skills, level of maturity*

Previous history: *pupil's prior participation in mixed class units*

Friendships

Gender

Sibling

Children with **Special Educational Needs** will be placed in the class deemed most appropriate by the staff and Principal.

In consultation with the class teacher, and if necessary with previous teachers of classes involved, lists of possible groups are drawn up

- The dynamics of the class must be considered. Emotional, behavioural and social factors which could upset the dynamic of the new class should be taken into consideration when forming new groupings
- 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 demands for groups of friends to be kept together. This decision will ultimately rest with the Principal, who must consider the needs of every child in the class

The supports which could be made available to children and teachers in mixed classes

The Principal, the Class Teacher and Learning Support team will consult on how best to organise the learning support for the mixed class. In some cases, the Learning Support Teacher may work in the classroom with the Class Teacher, in a team-teaching arrangement. It is possible that the Learning Support Teacher may work in the classroom supporting one child or a small group of children, with the Class Teacher doing the main teaching of the lesson. Another arrangement for Learning Support which may suit the class is for either the Class Teacher or the Learning Support Teacher to withdraw small groups of children. Occasionally, especially in the case of Senior Infants/1, 2/3, 4/5 it may suit the classes better, if the teaching of Mathematics is taken separately by the Class Teacher for one class and the Learning Support Teacher for the other class. All of these arrangements must be considered on a class by class basis, from year to year.

An annual review of the organisation of all classes within the school will take place at the end of the academic year around May/June.

The Allocation of Teachers to Mixed Classes

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

Once classes have been formed the class is non-negotiable as this is school policy.

Parents will receive a letter in June explaining what class/ multi-grad class their child will be placed in for the coming September

Síniú: _____

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Dáta: _____