



CLASS FORMATION POLICY

Introduction

This document sets out the policy of Wicklow Educate Together for the formation of classes in double stream classes.

Rationale

To date Wicklow Educate Together has mostly had single stream classes. Double stream classes have tended to be the exception.

We anticipate that, with the move to the new school, double stream classes will become more commonplace. Double stream classes may consist of two classes of the same year grouping, e.g. two 4th classes, two 5th classes or may be multi-grade classes, e.g. one full 4th and one 4th / 5th.

We will be reconstituting class groupings at the end of each school year in double stream classes ie on entry into senior infants until entry into 5th class. We believe that this benefits children socially and that it promotes friendships and cohesion within each class group. Treating each year as a year and not as separate classes is coherent with Educate Together ethos and encourages equality for all children as they develop through the school.

Aims and objectives

The principal aims of re-forming classes at the end of each year from senior infants to 5th class are

- To ensure mixed ability groups
- To maximise the learning outcomes for each child
- To ensure that each child has the experience of being in class with a wider number of their peers
- To develop the children's social skills and to better equip them to form and sustain friendships
- To minimise tensions where difficult relationships exist

- Balance of support required by classes in terms of English as an Additional Language and Resource/Learning Support needs.

Compliance with school ethos

- This policy is formulated with the 4 core principles in mind
- WETNS strives to enable each child to develop to his/her full potential

Guidelines

Double Stream classes – activities throughout the year

Each double stream class will do at least one activity together once a week. The following are areas which would be suitable for joint activities:

- Learn Together curriculum / Assemblies
- Art
- Music
- P.E.
- Literacy / Literacy Lift Off in the junior classes
- Numeracy – group work / hands on activities
- Drama
- SPHE
- SESE / trails / walks

Other activities throughout the year where groups may come together

- In 5th / 6th the buddy system with junior classes
- School trips
- School productions / concerts
- Lunchtime
- Seachtain na Gaeilge activities
- Discover science work
- Sports Days
- Fundraisers
- Young entrepreneur projects

Process for class formations

The process will start each in the third term.

1. Parents and children will be given a form to detail the child's friendships and any other relevant information. (Sample form is at Appendix 1).
2. Relevant staff, e.g. teachers, support teachers, S.N.As and principal will come together for class formation meetings.
3. The following will be considered in determining the new class formations:

- Balance of abilities
 - Gender balance
 - Friendships
 - Other needs in the classroom.
4. Siblings will be placed in separate classes
 5. Class lists are finalised at the end of this process. Children and parents will know their new classes by the end of the school year.

It will seldom be possible to satisfy all demands for groups of friends to be kept together. This decision will lie with the Principal, who must consider the needs of each child in the class.

Timeframe for Implementation

- The policy will be implemented from September 2015 and will be reviewed as necessary, but no later than the school year 2017/2018

Responsibility for Review

- This policy will be reviewed during the school year 2017/2018 by staff members and parents. Any changes made will then be ratified by the Board of Management.

Ratification and Communication

- The policy has been in operation in the school since September 2015 having been communicated by the BOM by means of circular following ratification at school BOM meeting.

Appendix 1

CLASS : _____

PUPIL PROFILE FORM

Child's Name: _____

Any relevant information you would like to share with us

Please return this form to the school by _____.

Thank you