



Roll Number 18000W

Class Reconfiguration Policy

This policy is the result of whole school collaboration with the Board of Management to ensure that our class reconfiguring is completed as required and in the best interests of the children Rationale. Although the process of reconfiguration of classes is one that takes much time, reflection and resources, it is acknowledged by the school body that it has significant value in terms of the effective running of the school and the wellbeing of the children in the long term.

It is an approach that has been adopted by more and more schools across the country in recent times with wide ranging positive benefits. In a school year grouping, it may become apparent that there is a real discrepancy between classes in terms of academic ability, behaviour and general dynamics.

The following are the specific main benefits that flow from the reconfiguration of a class.

- A better mix of strengths and needs as well as an even number of pupils in each class.
 - The promotion of a community spirit within the school
 - The opportunity for the children to make more friends, particularly if they have not developed strong bonds in their initial class grouping which will be particularly useful when they move to secondary school.
 - The development of social skills and the facilitation of greater resilience, resourcefulness and flexibility.
 - A capacity to deal with and adapt to change
- Method for Reconfiguring Classes
Informing parents
- Parents have been consulted with and have provided input into this policy.
 - This policy will be available on the school website.
 - Parents of incoming infants will be made aware of the policy as a practice.
 - Parents will be made aware of any amendments to the policy after annual reviews.

The Process of Reconfiguration - Step by Step In term 3, the curricular areas such as PE, art, drama, SPHE ,Aistear and various other in-school activities will all provide opportunities for the children to mix with one another under the guidance of the two/three class teachers. These opportunities will be specifically designed in the formal planning of the teachers. The teachers will deliver specific lessons on the concepts of friendships and change to prepare the children for their new class groupings. A form will be sent home on which the parents, with input from their children, can identify the names of 4 children from their year grouping they would

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like to be in their class the following year. In the months of May and June, the class teachers, Special Education Team, vice principal and principal will work closely together to decide on the best possible reconfiguration of classes.

We guarantee that at least one friend from each child's list will be in the new class with them. Once a final decision is made, the children will be informed in school with the parents being informed by email of their child's new class grouping on the same day.

Once a decision has been made, no applications for change will be accepted. The children will have the opportunity to socialise and mix with their new class grouping prior to the end of the year. The name of the new class teacher will be shared with the parents at the same time as this information is communicated to the whole school community.

In September, the school leadership and Special Education Team will keep a close eye on the new class groupings and will provide additional support when and where required in so far as it is possible. The principles of this policy were agreed upon, following consultation with staff, parents and the Board of Management.

The policy was ratified by the Board on _____ and will be reviewed periodically.

Principal

Chairperson