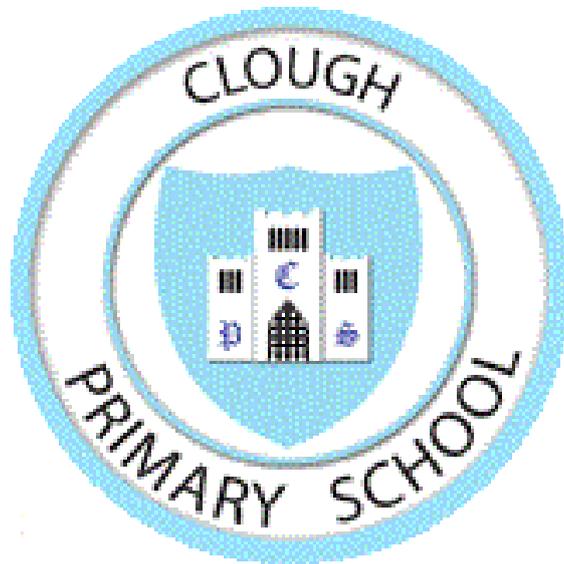


Clough Primary School

Composite Class Policy



Date Agreed:

April 2018

Review Date:

Annually

Signed:

Purpose

Our enrolment number of 141 pupils with approximately 20 children in each of the seven year groups necessitates the organisation of composite classes.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent and transparent process for the establishment of composite classes in Clough Primary School for the academic year 2018-19.

Background information

- A composite class is one where children from two or more year groups are taught together
- Many schools in Northern Ireland have composite classes as enrolment numbers often mean it is not possible to have straight classes for individual year groups
- Composite classes are formed to make efficient use of teaching staff
- The number of teachers in a school is based upon the total school roll, not on the numbers in any single year group
- It is the responsibility of the principal of the school and Board of Governors to decide on the optimum class structure based on the number of pupils on the school roll
- All of our teachers are trained to work with mixed ability classes whether in a single year group or a composite class. In all primary classes there are a wide range of abilities and all children will learn in different ways, responding to a variety of methods and resources.
- There is some evidence to show that pupils in composite classes gain socially, however there is no evidence to support the view that the performance of pupils in composite classes is either above or below that of pupils in single age classes.

Composite class policy- Principles and procedures

The principles behind the policy are:

- Delivering the best educational experience for pupils is paramount
- Whatever the composition of a class, it is the responsibility of the class teacher to treat all pupils as individuals and try to make sure that every child is reaching their full potential. Please be reassured that each class will follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum in its entirety, for example a Primary 5 child in a P4/5 class will be covering the exact same curriculum in a P5/6 class.
- The teachers and principal will establish a composite class using assessment data together with the professional judgements of the staff who know the child. However, in exceptional circumstances, the principal will have the flexibility to exercise discretion where they are satisfied that this is in the best interest of the children concerned.

Decisions will be made following the priority order set out below:

1. The Primary 1 class will not be split during the 2018/19 academic year.
2. Primary 2-3 classes will be grouped by reading groups.
3. P4-7 Classes will be grouped according to results in two GL Standardised Tests (Progress Test in English and Progress Test in Maths).
4. Children's standardised scores will be ranked and from this ranking the required number of pupils with the highest ranking will be placed in a composite class with the year group above.
5. We will aim to optimise the pupil/teacher ratio where possible therefore enabling teachers to maximise the time spent with children.
6. Parents will be informed of the composite class structure and their child's placement when they receive their child's annual report on Monday 25th June 2018.
7. In exceptional circumstances changes to classes may have to take place. If this is the case parents will be informed as soon as possible.

Handling of parental concerns

There is no formal right to appeal against a decision on a child joining a composite class, however, if a parent feels the school has not adhered to this policy they should raise their concern with the principal in the first instance. If they are still not satisfied they should then contact the Chair of the Board of Governors.

Implementation of the policy

This policy will be implemented in Clough PS with effect from May 2018.

Policy monitoring and review

The policy will be reviewed annually after consultation with the Board of Governors.