

Friday 9th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you of an update to the Re-balancing Classes Policy that is being implemented from September 2023 as it will impact your child's year group. After careful consideration, and looking at trends and patterns, it has been agreed that we will review the balance of gender, education, language, social needs, maturity and friendships twice in a child's educational journey at Kilmorie; the first at the end of Reception and then again at the end of year 3.

These two points have been carefully considered. Our children have a varied experience prior to starting Reception and at times we have little knowledge of their accessibility to education, which can cause an imbalance across the year group. We also have a continuous enrolment policy; as a result, we take in children throughout the year, placing them in classes where spaces are available. By the end of an academic year or phase, with the natural movement of children in and out, classes can become quite unbalanced in terms of gender, education, language, social needs, maturity and friendships.

This mixing of classes gives a number of benefits to children, it:

- Creates opportunities for children to learn and play with a wide variety of peers
- Develops relationships with a wider group of friends
- Further develops children's collaborative skills for learning
- Enables improved social interaction and the development of social skills between different sets of pupils as they move up through the school
- Ensures that classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer (mobility); transition between phases and year groups and changes to individual needs within each class
- Promotes a greater sense of community in a large three-form entry primary school (being part of a year group, not just a class)
- Prepares children for secondary school where they will be taught in different classes throughout the year

I understand that for some, this information may raise questions and would like to invite you to a short presentation next Thursday 15th June at 6pm. This will enable me to further share the rationale behind this decision; take you through the process outlining how it collectively supports all children to have a successful learning journey and allow time to answer any questions you may still have.

I am attaching the Re-balancing Classes Policy that I hope will answer some of the questions this letter may have raised prior to next Thursday.

I would also like to take the time to assure you this decision has been carefully considered and holds the children's best interests at heart - ensuring all children have the best opportunity to a successful learning journey throughout their time at Kilmorie.

Kind regards



Julie Loffstadt
Headteacher

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