

CLASS PLACEMENT

Rationale:

Yokine Primary School has a process in place for allocating students into classes each year, combining teacher professional judgement, with all available student information to form balanced classes.

Purpose:

Classes are to be formed in such a way as to best meet the needs of the students within the constraints of Department policy, Industrial Agreements, and the school's financial and physical resources.

Guidelines for Forming Classes:

Where the school structure requires single year level or composite classes, a rigorous process is followed. Classes at Yokine Primary School are not streamed.

Process:

1. The Leadership Team establishes class structure options for the following year based upon anticipated enrolments, historical data, school priorities, and the need for operational flexibility.
2. Parents/caregivers may provide written submissions regarding class placements. Submissions must be based on educational reasons, addressed to 'The Principal' and marked 'Confidential'.
3. Each student records a list of three friends from their current year group that they work well with and would like to be in a class with for the following year and submits this to their class teacher.
4. Classroom teachers, in consultation with specialist teachers, provide information on each student, including the level of academic, social and behavioural support to the Leadership Team.
5. Software collates all data collected in Steps 3 and 4, drafting classes that balance gender, behaviour and academic support and meeting a minimum of one friendship request per student.
6. Draft lists are reviewed for workload equality by the executive Leadership Team. All written parent/caregiver submissions are considered during this stage.
7. Class lists are reviewed by teaching staff with final changes made, ensuring balance amongst classes is maintained, prior to final ratification by the Principal in early December.
8. Class lists will be circulated to parents prior to students attending on the first day of the new school year, to cater for staffing adjustments and last-minute student enrolments and departures.

Composite Classes:

Composite classes arise when there is a need to create a class by combining children from two or more year levels into the same classroom, with instruction provided by the same teacher/s. Composite classes are required when there are uneven student numbers across year levels, and in order to comply with DoE policy and Industrial Agreements.

Department recommendations are; Year 1 – 3 classes are no larger than 24 students; Years 4 – 6 class numbers are 32; Kindergarten classes are 20 students and a Pre-Primary class is no larger than 27 students. Combining students in composite classes is often an administrative solution that allows schools to ensure more consistent class sizes. At Yokine Primary School we have and will continue to incorporate composite classes within a school year.

Research into the correlation between student learning and composite classes shows that there is no difference to academic outcomes and that social networks are expanded, allowing for more options and connections in the playground. Furthermore, opportunities for students to become confident and assertive while they learn to operate as part of a group whilst also supporting the development of independent learning skills are fostered through composite classroom arrangements.

Endorsed YPS Board: 4 September 2024