



**WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**Reviewed May 2020 in light of COVID pandemic by Andrea Banks**

## **Class Mixing Policy**

### **Rationale**

- To create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- To enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school giving them the chance to reinvent themselves
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer and transition during phases
- To further promote a greater sense of community in a larger than average primary school

### **Principles**

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, Key Stage Leaders and the Senior Leadership team
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions
- We will communicate the rationale for mixing classes in an open and transparent way to parents/carers
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendships that work well

### **The process:**

- Class Teachers, Teaching Assistants and Special Needs Assistants report on their previous observations of children's friendships at work and play
- Class Teachers meet to ensure a good balance of friendships, range of educational, social and personal needs, gender and maturity are represented in each class
- Key Stage Leader meets with Class Teachers to discuss and finalise groupings
- Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team meet and approve classes
- *Where possible* views will be sought from the children by naming up to 5 children across the year group with whom they work well with or are friends with. During the pandemic, this will be through parents emailing school 5 suggested children they think their child will work well with. If possible we will seek to place each child with 1 of the suggested placements, however this is not guaranteed. New Classes are shared with

parents and children in the Summer Term prior to the new year. If it is possible to have a transition day prior to September, this will be arranged but is dependent upon Government Guidance about numbers of children in school.

## **Criteria for Class Mixing**

Classes will be mixed to achieve a good balance according to the following criteria:

- Range of educational, social and personal needs
- Level of maturity
- Friendships
- Gender

### **\* Friendships**

Over the course of their Primary years children will have a range of friendship experiences. We find that some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others can stand the test of time. With that in mind and as we prepare to draw up the class lists, we will use observations of the children in the classroom and at play to inform our decision making along with children's own views.

### **Review**

The Senior Leadership Team and Headteacher will review the process and criteria for each year's class mixing arrangements at the end of Spring Term ahead of the following year's class mixing.

This policy will be reviewed May 2021