

Mixed Year Groups Policy

At Shrewton C of E Primary School, our current four class structure means that we have mixed age classes within the school. Due to the differing sizes of year groups we may have a different structure each year.

Principles

- The arrangements for class structure are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, the Senior Leadership Team and the Headteacher
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions.
- No child will be socially isolated by splitting a year group unless behaviour factors are a higher priority.
- The decision of the Headteacher is final.

Children may be assigned to classes for the following reasons:

- Gender balance,
- Current attainment and progress,
- Confidence, aptitude and maturity,
- Relationships with peers.

We are not able to take into account requests from children or parents about which class they would like their child in. This is because it would be impossible to take all requests into account and we must make a decision that is in the best interests of all the children in the school both educationally, socially and emotionally.

As the decision about which class a child goes into is based on confidential information, we do not explain the full decision about class-setting to parents or children as this would mean discussing confidential matters about other children.

We are aware that having children in a mixed age class or in a class where a child is not with all of his/her friends can be a concern for parents. We work hard to ensure that children are not disadvantaged by which class they are in.

When children are placed in mixed age classes they will follow the same National Curriculum through a variety of themes at a level appropriate to their individual ability. Children will not be “held back” or “struggle to keep up” in any class. All teachers are trained to work in mixed ability classes whether in a straight year group or in a mixed age class. All tasks are differentiated to challenge the needs of individuals wherever they are on the learning continuum.

In all primary classes there are a wide range of abilities and all children will learn in different ways at a different pace, responding to a variety of methods and resources. Teachers are able to adapt to the different needs within any class and plan accordingly. Programmes and schemes of work are compiled to suit the development needs of all learners in different groupings. Opportunities are made for children from the same year group to mix together during break times, lunch times, after school activities, sport teams etc.

In order to ensure parents are aware of the way we set classes:

- We explain it to parents when they are shown round school before making the decision to apply for a place at Shrewton C of E Primary School.
- We have a summary of this policy in our school prospectus.
- We ensure, through a newsletter, that parents are aware of this policy just before the classes for the following year are announced.
- We have a copy of this policy on our school website and available to parents upon request.

Complaints and Appeals

Initially, any concerns should be shared with the Headteacher who will be able to reassure you about your child's allocated class.

Parents cannot refuse to have their child placed in any class at Shrewton C of E Primary School. This is a managerial decision based on this policy. The Governing Body have delegated the responsibility of day to day management of the school to the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team.

If a parent feels that the school has not adhered to the Mixed Year Groups Policy they can raise this in the first instance with the Headteacher, and if still not satisfied, they should raise their concerns with the Complaints Committee of the Governing Body. The contact details are available through the Clerk to the Governors.

Reviewed: May 2026

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