

Griffeen Valley ETNS – Draft Policy on Mixing Classes

Introduction

This policy was the product of whole staff collaboration in tandem with the Board of Management and following input from parents of Griffeen Valley ETNS (This line will only be contained in the policy following completion of the consultation process)

Rationale:

In the interest of providing the best learning environment for all our students in GVET, class groups at the same level may be mixed. Through this, children will establish relationships with everyone in their year group reflecting the ethos of our 'Learn Together' curriculum and Educate Together ethos. This will strengthen our school community and build positive relationships. This also further enhances our Anti-Bullying Policy.

Classes from same and different year groups will also establish positive relationships through mixed yard groupings, paired reading, buddy systems, team-teaching, assemblies, whole school singing and other whole school activities.

Classes will be mixed at the end of Junior Infants, First Class, Third Class and Fifth Class. For this policy to be implemented all of these indicated classes will be mixed at the end of the school year 2018.

For the best interests of all children's learning the decision to mix classes lies with the Principal, staff and the Board of Management.

Aims and Objectives:

The following criteria will be taken into consideration when mixing classes.

Criteria:

Classes will be mixed –

- To develop life-long social skills of forming new friendships which will prepare pupils for further education in secondary school and beyond
- To ensure that there is gender balance
- To improve dynamics within a class based on social, cultural, emotional or behavioural considerations
- Taking friendship groupings into consideration
- To provide adequate Special Needs and SNA supports and to ensure access to those who need it
- Taking staffing allocations into account.

Management of Mixing Classes:

The principal, in conjunction with class teachers, will provide the Board annually with new class listings.

Parents will be informed, in writing, that their child's class will be mixed for the coming year – the classes to be mixed are: Junior Infants, First Class, Third Class and Fifth Class. This will be communicated in April of each year.

When mixing the children, teachers will take cognizance of the above criteria. The principal will meet with relevant class teachers in early May to facilitate this process.

The teachers and SNA's will inform and prepare the children for the coming year.

A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in ensuring a smooth transition for the children.

The Policy will be reviewed annually.

Implementation:

This Policy is a DRAFT POLICY and will only be returned for ratification following consultation with all stakeholders within the school community, including, staff, parents and Board of Management.