



Class Transition Policy

Ratified by the Governing Body: November 2025

Review Date: September 2026

Trinity St Mary's C of E VA Primary School

Class Transition Policy

Due to falling numbers within South Woodham Ferrers, pupil numbers are currently in decline and this may result in mixed classes.

This policy is to ensure that the rationale for annual class movements, however decided, is rooted in best educational practice and that criteria are transparent, shared and consistently applied.

The model for mixed age classes has many benefits, as follows:

- Mixed age/ability groupings promote a growth mindset and a dynamic view of learning.
- Research suggests that if schools adopt mixed grouping they are more likely to use inclusive teaching strategies and promote higher aspirations for their pupils.
- Children share classes with peers of a similar age and emotional maturity, which supports their social development.
- Regular mixing of classes promotes other aspects of social development.
- The mixing of children across classes and age groups makes the school more cohesive.

Primary school teachers are skilled in ensuring appropriate challenge and support for all children in their care. They are experienced in drawing on aspects of the curriculum outside the notional age expectations of the children they teach. As a school, we strive to continuously develop this aspect of practice in all our teachers, through rigorous monitoring and staff training.

Opportunities will still exist to group children based on ongoing teacher assessments, providing this is:

- Appropriate to content
- Dynamic (allows and promotes movement between groups)

Criteria

Age is the prime and overriding criterion for arranging classes. Children are grouped vertically by age across the school.

This will be followed by gender to ensure an appropriate balance across classes.

Identified Special Educational Needs will be considered on an individual basis, in consultation with appropriate professionals.

Multiples – twins etc. – may be reviewed with Parents/carers if needed.

The following criteria will not be considered:

- Achievement/experience/ability
- Behaviour (unless an identified SEN)
- Friendship groups
- Ethnicity
- Stage of English acquisition
- Socio-economic factors

Exceptional Circumstances

On very rare occasions, there may be circumstances not specified in this policy that have an impact on the appropriate class placement for a child. Specifically, such circumstances will be exceptional to the criteria mentioned above. In such a case, after appropriate consultation, the Headteacher will make the final decision on class placement for the child.

In-Year Vacancies

If places become available mid-year, children new to the school may join a mixed year class 'out of age'.