



## **Holy Family National School Class Splitting Policy**

### **Rationale:**

In the interest of providing the best education for all pupils, it may from time to time be necessary to divide and combine class groups into mixed classes. Currently, there are six mainstream class teachers and eight class groupings in Holy Family National School.

### **Aims and Objectives of this Policy:**

- To provide a framework for the splitting of classes
- To outline the criteria for placing children in particular mixed-class groupings
- To set out the supports which may be used to ensure the best learning outcomes for all children in mixed classes
- To set out the arrangement for books and schemes of work for split classes

### **Framework:**

At the time of planning the classes for the coming year, the Principal will look at the overall numbers in each year group and the number of teachers available to teach them. He/she will decide how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities for all children.

The arrangement of classes will differ from year to year; in some cases, there may be no need to split any class in an academic year. A class split is put in place for one school year, numbers and staffing arrangements will dictate the arrangement in subsequent years. A class may be split once, more than once during their time in primary school or perhaps not at all. These arrangements are made year to year.

When possible, the split class will be together on the same yard for break times. *An exception to this is where classes need to stay in their class bubbles due to Covid-19 restrictions.*

## **Criteria**

When dividing a class into groups, to be placed in separate classes, there are certain criteria to be taken into consideration:

Our policy is to form mixed-ability groups. The ability of the pupil will be determined by teacher knowledge, observation and test results.

Consideration will be given to gender balance and age.

The process of forming new friendships is a life skill which is important to develop. A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in the new groups.

The dynamics of the class must be considered. Emotional, behavioural and social factors which could upset the dynamic of the new class will be taken into consideration when forming new groupings.

Classes will be split in an open and transparent manner.

Parents of twins and siblings will be given the option of splitting their children or keeping them in the same group.

Class divisions will be made known to parents and pupils before the summer holidays.

SEN children and SNA's will be allocated to the class groupings at the discretion of the Board of Management.

## **Supports Available to Split Classes**

The Principal, the class teacher and the Special Education Team will consult on how best to organise the educational support for the class.

The Special Education Teacher may work in the classroom with the class teacher using some or all of the following teaching models: Team Teaching, Parallel Teaching, Alternative Teaching, Station Teaching.

The Special Education Teacher may work in the classroom supporting one child, a small group of children or one of the classes. These arrangements will be considered on a class-by-class basis.

## **Arrangement for books and schemes of work for split classes**

The prescribing of books and planning of schemes of work will be differentiated for the core subjects of Numeracy and Literacy.

The class teacher will differentiate the remaining curricular subjects using the various methods of differentiation recommended in the Primary School Curriculum (NCCA: 1999)

Due to the nature of varying teaching styles, differing timetables etc. progression through the curriculum and the prescription of homework may differ between the two groupings. All children will access the full curriculum.

Where books are to be bought/used by pupils the class teacher will take due regard of the history of the class groupings to date and the materials and schemes previously covered by their incoming class grouping.

### **Teacher Allocation**

It is the duty of the Principal as per Circular 16/73 to assign teaching duties.

### **REVIEW**

This Policy will be reviewed in May 2026

### **RATIFICATION**

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 17/11/2020

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Very Rev. Canon R Munster.  
(Chairperson of Board of Management)

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Sarah-Jane Lewis  
(Principal)

Date: 25th May 2021