

# Class Formation Policy

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## **Rationale:**

- A clearly defined, collaborative process for the placement of children into classes will lead to greater efficiency, increased understanding and improved opportunities for learning.

## **Aims:**

- To provide each child with the opportunity to be part of a class of children that will allow them the best opportunity to learn.
- To form well balanced classes of children that take into account the gender, social, emotional, academic and physical characteristics of each child.
- To ensure that optimum use is made of the prior knowledge that teachers, parents and others have of each child prior to class placement.

## **Implementation:**

- While the allocation of children to various classes, class structures and class compositions are all ultimately responsibilities of the principal, a collaborative process with the school community will be employed.
- The process of forming classes will commence in November of each year.
- The principal will determine the number of classes for the following year, class sizes and the year levels of each class based on overall student numbers and in consultation with staff.
- Expressions of interest will be sought from staff members to teach each class. Once decided, staff members will be required to work collaboratively to create draft classes of students.
- Consideration will be given to gender, the previous class, each child's ability, behaviour and friendship groups etc. Individual needs and a whole school perspective must be considered.
- Prep to Grade 2 classes should be smaller whenever possible.
- Preferred class compositions are either single year level or dual grade levels.
- The principal will keep records of written parental concerns relating to class formation and will inform staff of parent input.
- Once draft classes are completed, the principal will make any necessary final alterations.
- Under exceptional circumstances the principal may reorganise classes throughout the year.
- Staff members will not disclose the composition of proposed classes prior to any formal announcements.
- Children who enrol at the school during the year will be temporarily allocated to classes, with the possible need to alter the placement once further information regarding the child is known.
- Details relating to the school organisation, classes of children, and the roles of teachers will be released to parents prior to the 'up-day' process.
- The principal will keep records of written parental concerns relating to the 'up-day' process, to be considered when forming classes.

## **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.