



SCOIL BHRÍDE EGLANTINE

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Class Formation Policy

This policy on class formation was drawn up following consultation with teaching staff, parent body and Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde, Eglantine in February 2024.

Rationale

Teacher allocation set against the number of pupils enrolled will determine that there may be times when class groupings will be reorganised.

The Principal and teaching staff may give consideration to the realignment of classes if deemed necessary or beneficial to a particular class grouping.

This policy aims to ensure mixed ability groups where the learning outcomes for each child are maximised. This policy aims to ensure that each child has the experience in a class with a wider number of peers where social skills are developed and friendships are nurtured.

Criteria

In the formation of classes, the following criteria will be considered;

- The class will be of mixed ability.
- Teacher knowledge of pupils.
- Teacher's professional opinion.
- Individual needs of the children.
- Classroom dynamics which may change from year to year.
- Friendships – The children will be involved in this process and every effort will be made to ensure that each girl has at least one good friend in her class, with this information coming from the children, in writing.
- Age balance.
- Family considerations e.g. twins.
- Other considerations which may arise at the discretion of the principal.



Process

- The principal will inform parents where the need arises to reform class groupings.
- Ample opportunity to play and work collaboratively with children from other class groupings will be provided prior to the reformation of classes.
- A number of lessons and class activities relating to the theme of friendship will be delivered. A number of homework activities will also be set in order to facilitate further discussion at home.
- Following this process, every child will be asked to complete a personal “friendship handprint” where they will be asked to identify the names of their close friends.
- The process of forming new friendships is a life skill which is very important to develop. A positive and supportive outlook from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome.
- Class formation will be carried out by the principal in consultation with the class and support teachers and will be approved by the Board of Management.
- It will seldom be possible to satisfy all demands for groups of friends to be kept together. Classes cannot be rearranged to suit individual children or parents. The decision will lie with the principal, who must consider the needs of every child in the class.
- Children and parents will know their new class before the end of the school year.

Conclusion

This policy was formulated to ensure that the formation of classes is carried out in the best interests of the pupils. The process is carried out with great care and professionalism.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on February 13th 2024.

Sheelagh O' Leary

Sheelagh O' Leary, Chairperson BOM.

Ger O'Brien

Ger O' Brien, Principal.

This policy will be reviewed in February 2027.