



Common Questions Regarding Class Placement

Why is class placement in the hands of the teaching staff?

As professional educators we strive to make the right choices taking into account all the information we have to hand. While it is certainly true that parents know their own children the best, when a parent requests a specific placement for their child, they do not have all the relevant information. Teachers, on the other hand, have the academic and social information about all children in a particular year level.

Why does the school have some composite grade classes instead of having all straight year level classes?

As staffing is dependent upon the enrolment in each year level, multi-aged or combined classes may occur. This practice is well supported by research and our beliefs about how children learn. It is also often a practical necessity with our enrolment numbers.

The class distribution will be considered on the basis of student numbers. The distribution for the class numbers may change each year according to numbers in the school and the effects of different numbers in each class or year group.

Can I request a particular teacher for my child either in writing or through discussion with my child's present teacher?

All parent submissions will be given consideration but will not necessarily be accommodated.

Can I request my child is placed with another child or can I request my child is not placed with another particular child?

While some parents make a friendship request, the decision is complex. Sometimes a request maybe received from one family to place particular children together, while the second family requests the same children be placed in separate classes. The final decision on placement rests with the principal.

Often children placed with best friends will work and play exclusively with each other, and this does not promote the social interaction we try to foster. When allocating children to classes, we endeavour to foster positive social interaction across a year group, by making socially balanced classes.

Do teachers request certain student placements into their classes?

No, as teachers are not assigned to a class until after the class placement process. Teachers focus on class balance to ensure a successful year for all classes.

We really like the teacher one of our children had. Now our other child will be entering that year level. Can we assume our second child will get that teacher?

It is a coincidence if this happens as the school does not use historical records when placing children. New relationships are constructive and help us grow. All children are different and may respond well to a different teacher.



When I get my child's class placement, can I request that it be changed?

You may talk with one of the deputy principals or principal about your concerns and be assured that those concerns will be shared with the teacher so your child's anxieties will be addressed. Teachers are expected to have the skills to help children adjust.

The class placements are considered final. Changes to placements are rare due to the fact they often cause a chain reaction and impact on the class balance, which in turn is unfair to many students within the group. While we feel we consider the individual child during the placement process, parents must realise their child is part of a complex equation in school placements.

What if my child is having difficulty in his/her new placement after school has started? Can we request a change then?

We will do everything we can to problem solve. Parents need to talk to the teacher initially, so the child's needs can be addressed.

If your child is having difficulty with a student in his/her class, please inform the classroom teacher, so problem solving can take place. This is an aspect of the school experience where students learn to function socially with all kinds of people.

I have noticed that a small group of my child's friends have been together in classes for a few years in a row, but my child has been in different classes.

If this is happening, it would be a coincidence.

Finally, all information about children is valued and heard. Teachers aim to construct the smoothest transitions possible for the students. Parents can help by being as positive and encouraging as possible to their children in this process.

If you have any more questions, please feel free to contact one of the administration staff or your child's teacher.