



St Charles Catholic Primary School Class Setting Policy

This Policy was adopted by The Governing Body of St Charles Catholic Primary School on:	
Date: 28.06.2023	Signed by: <i>Elizabeth Z. Pawal</i>
It will be reviewed every year	Review Date: June 2024

Mission Statement

*"Let all that you do be done in Love.
Love is made possible with respect."* St Charles Borromeo

At St Charles' we pray, love and learn together as one school family, with Christ at our centre. We create and experience joy every day in our home, our school and our parish.

Vision

Children will leave St. Charles':

- With a love for learning.
- With Christ in their hearts.
- With outstanding manners.
- Showing care and respect for all.
- Having achieved their best.
- With a sense of pride and confidence.
- With a deep sense of responsibility.
- With life-long skills to enhance their future.

Values:

Everyone at St. Charles' will be:

- Compassionate
- Aspirational
- Determined
- Enthusiastic
- Humble
- Friendly
- Trustworthy

At St Charles Catholic Primary School, we have an official intake (PAN) of 17 pupils per year group, even though we are striving for more children to join our school. This means that there are too few children for one class per year group. Consequently, most children at St Charles Catholic will be in a mixed age class.

Class Setting in Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One

In EYFS and Key Stage 1 we have two classes:

- Class 1: EYFS and Year 1
- Class 2: Year 1 and Year 2

Class Setting in Key Stage Two

- In Key Stage Two, children are in 3 classes. In 2023 - 2024 this will comprise of:
- Class 3: Year 3 and Year 4
- Class 4: Year 4 and Year 5
- Class 5: Year 6

The children in split aged classes are divided between these classes, taking into account the following criteria:

- Term of birthday
- Academic ability
- Social groups
- Number of boys and girls in the class
- Further consideration is then given to pupils with SEN to ensure they are in a place where they will learn best and to ensure there is not a significant number of pupils with additional needs in any given class.
- Behaviour– pupil clashes/groups of pupils clashing.
- We consider siblings (some siblings need to be together, but some are better apart). This is the one *exception upon which we may consult parents*.
- Exceptional circumstances that will affect a child's emotional or educational well-being.

We do not set classes by friendship groups alone, but by the importance of where children will learn best.

Requests from Parents

We do not take into account requests regarding preferences from children or parents about which class they would like their child in or if they can "be with their friends". This is because, it would be impossible to take all requests into account and we must make a decision that is in the best interests of all the children in the school both educationally, socially and emotionally.

As the decision about which class a child goes into is based on confidential information, we do not explain the full decision about class-setting to parents or children as this would mean discussing confidential matters about other children.

Mixed Age Classes

We are aware that having children in a mixed age class or in a class where a child is not with all of their friends can be a concern for parents. We work hard to ensure that children are not disadvantaged by which class they are in. For example:

- Teachers in Key Stage Two classes plan themes in teams and our curriculum is knowledge and skills based to ensure all children are receiving appropriate challenges.

In addition, teachers arrange many occasions throughout the year when children from different classes get the opportunity to work together. Our school house team system allows children of different year groups in different classes to get together too.

In order to ensure parents are aware of the way we set classes:

- We explain it to parents when they are shown round school before making the decision to apply for a place at St Charles Catholic Primary.
- We explain this system when we discuss transition to our parents.
- We have a copy of this policy on our school website and will annually share this policy with parents.

If parents have a question about the class their child is in:

- They should make an appointment to see the Headteacher, who will answer any questions to the best of their ability. Parents must, however, be aware that explaining classes is very difficult without talking about other people's children. We are unable to break confidentiality and so it may not be possible to answer parents' concerns fully.
- If parents are unhappy with the explanation from the headteacher, they are able to follow the school's complaints procedure.
- Parents must be aware that class setting is a professional decision and parental "preferences" will not be taken into account.