



# Ysgol yr Holl Saint All Saints' School



## Mixed Classes Policy

<b>Equality Act Impact Assessment</b>	<b>YES</b>	NO	January 2021
<b>Last Review Date</b>	September 2023		
<b>Date to be reviewed by Senior Management Team</b>	September 2024		
<b>Date Adopted by Governing Body</b>	19.09.2023		
<b>Head Teacher - Mr Richard Hatwood</b>			
<b>Chair of Governors – Mrs Jane Tinniswood</b>			



## **Introduction**

Ysgol yr Holl Saint – All Saints' School has a standard admission number of 45 pupils per year group and therefore it is necessary to have flexibility in the structure of registration classes. This will include the consideration of mixed age classes. The school has operated with mixed-age classes for a number of years due to the intake at Ysgol yr Holl Saint - All Saints' School and this continues to fluctuate between one class and a class and a half. As a result of pupil numbers not being consistent each year, the Governing Body have agreed there will be a need for mixed aged classes in some cohorts.

## **Mixed Classes**

Within the Early Years, the school usually maintains a morning and afternoon Nursery class and two Reception classes where pupils work at a higher adult to pupil ratio to support their start in full time education.

The school forms mixed age classes from Year 1 upwards, this means that there are usually three Year 1/2 classes which feed into three Year 3/4 classes. Pupils are grouped by Early Years staff at the end of Reception and staff consider friendships, group working skills, Additional Learning Needs and other factors in making the groupings. Where there are two or more classes with the same mix of year groups, these classes will be parallel. (i.e. gender, ability, Additional Learning Needs needs etc will be balanced between each class).

The school will consult with parents and carers in 2023/24 for those pupils moving into Year 5/6 if mixed aged classes are required. Historically, date of birth will be the first and main criteria with the oldest pupils in one year group coming together with the youngest of the year group above to form a new class.

There may be exceptions to this and for these individual pupils the parents/carers concerned will be invited to discuss the school's decision before making them final.

Although classes are very carefully organised, at times and on special occasions pupils may change to different teaching groups during the school day or may access additional support outside of the classroom depending on their individual needs. As is normal practice, pupils will be taught the relevant curriculum in each phase and for each year group and work will be adapted and pitched to meet the needs of every child in the class.

## **Single Aged Classes**

Welsh Government regulations require that registration class sizes do not exceed thirty pupils in Reception – Year 2 classes and schools are advised not to exceed class sizes of thirty pupils in Key Stage Two. Single age classes in a year when there is more than one class of a single age (eg two straight year 1 classes) will be organised as parallel classes with an equal mix of gender, ability and pupils with Additional Learning Needs.

As with mixed aged classes, at times and on special occasions, pupils may change to different teaching groups during the school day or may access additional support outside of the classroom depending on their individual needs. When budget constraints allow and numbers of pupils entering the school in the Early Years (Nursery & Reception) in September are sufficient, pupils will be divided into a Nursery class (Led by a Nursery Nurse and under the direction of the Reception teachers) and two parallel registration Reception classes. However, every pupil will have access to all resources within the Early Years Centre. Although pupil numbers do fluctuate the school will work to keep Reception as single age classes whenever possible.

Staffing in the Early Years Centre will be appropriate to ensure the full entitlement of the Enabling Pathways document and Curriculum for Wales can be delivered with ease to all pupils. Pupils who have Additional Learning Needs and who are entitled to additional learning provision as identified in an Individual Development Plan will continue receiving such support whichever registration class they are in. This support will take a variety of forms including some one to one provision; small group support in class, small group support away from the classroom, external support when required or additional physical resources to support independent learning.

### **Parental/Carer Concerns**

Pupils quickly adapt to their new classes and we ask they are given an opportunity to do so. We will give them several opportunities before the end of the school year to meet their new class mates. Parents/carers will be informed of where their child is placed and given an opportunity to discuss these placements with the Senior Management Team if they have serious concerns. After a trial period (20 school days) and discussion with the Senior Management Team, if a parent/carers remains unhappy about where their child is placed they can write to the Headteacher outlining their specific concerns and reasons for requesting a change. (This must be raised in writing within 25 school days of the new academic year). This will be considered by the Headteacher alongside reasons given by teachers and the Senior Management Team and a final decision will be made in writing to the parent within 10 school days. If the parent/carers remains unhappy they can use the school's formal complaints policy and procedure which is available on request from the school office or can be found on the school website.

### **Evaluation & Review**

This policy will be reviewed by the Senior Management Team and Governing Body and adopted by the Governing Body as per the schedule on the front page.