

Scoil Íosagáin

**Procedure for
Splitting Classes**

Policy/Procedure on Splitting Classes

Introduction

This policy was formulated as a result of a collaborative approach between the Principal, the Staff, and the Board of Management of Scoil Íosagáin, Upperchurch NS.

Rationale

In the interest of providing the best education for all students, it may from time to time be necessary to divide class groups into split classes.

The DES allots one teacher to each group of 24 pupils at present. This is known as the *pupil-teacher ratio*. The ideal situation for teacher and pupil would be a single stream class at all class levels with no more than 20 pupils per class. However, the current system and current enrolment numbers do not allow for this and the principal has overall responsibility for grouping or splitting the classes where numbers would otherwise be too big or too small in one class. The pupil-teacher ratio is dictated annually by the government budget and schools have no control over this.

Aims and Objectives of this Policy

- To provide a framework for the splitting of classes
- To outline the criteria on which children are selected to be placed in split classes

Framework for the splitting of classes

At the time of planning the classes for the coming year, the Principal will look at the overall numbers in each year group and the number of teachers available to teach them. It will be decided how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best learning opportunities for all children. In May/June the teachers and Principal will attend class formation meetings. In line with the criteria set out for splitting classes, they will draw up a list of pupils for each class grouping. Class lists are finalised in June and the pupils and parents will be informed of their new class grouping before the start of the school holidays.

Informing Parents

Parents will receive notification of their child's allocated class for the new school year along with the school report and class supplies/materials list etc in June of each year.

(see template notification attached – Appendix 1)

Class Groupings may change annually subject to enrolment numbers.

General points to note:

- Classes may have to be split for organisational purposes and due to class numbers.
- Whenever the situation arises whereby a class may have to be split, we endeavour to position a child within a class group where he/she shall benefit most.
- A child positioned in the side of a split which shares a room with a younger class shall receive the same opportunities as a child positioned in the other side of the split sharing a room with an older class. All children in either side of a split class shall receive equal opportunities regarding curriculum objectives, participation in sports, games, projects, Christmas Concert, tours/trips etc...
- No matter what side of a split a child is positioned, he/she shall receive fair and equal opportunity regarding all aspects of daily school life.
- Considerations will be given to friendships and social interaction when forming class groupings.

Criteria on which children are selected to be placed in split classes.

When class numbers are finalised based on the numbers in each year group and the number of teachers available, the following criteria will be used to split class groupings, if necessary.

- We endeavour that children will be grouped so as to maximise their holistic development- emotionally, socially and intellectually.
- The dynamics of the whole class are considered. Emotional, behavioural & social development and friendships are taken into consideration when forming new class groupings.
- Distribution of boys/girls in classes, in so far as is practicable, is considered.
- Informal and formal assessment, in conjunction with ability to work independently at a class appropriate level, may be used to finalise the selection process.

A positive & supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in the new groups.

Curriculum Content

Classroom teaching is based on the curricular objectives for each class level. Pupil textbooks are used merely as a guide by the teacher. The primary curriculum (www.curriculumonline.ie) is primarily *skills-based* rather than *content-based*. The teacher differentiates the content of the curriculum and expected outcomes to cater for the needs of each pupil. The teacher will ensure that each pupil in each class will be working on the set of learning outcomes from the national curriculum for the correct class.

Implementation and Review:

This policy was reviewed and will be implemented in 2023. It will be reviewed again every 2 years.

Ratification and Communication:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 20.04.2023.

Signed P. J. Harrington
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 20th April '23

Signed Alma Quinn
Principal

Date: April 20th, 2023.



Appendix 1- Sample Template

Date: _____

Class Grouping Allocation

The following classroom arrangements will be in place for class groupings for school year _____.

Class Groupings:

- Classroom 1: Jnr Infants
- Classroom 2: Snr Infants
- Classroom 3: 1st Class
- Classroom 4: 2nd & 3rd Class
- Classroom 5: 4th & 5th Class
- Classroom 6: 5th & 6th Class

Your child _____ will be in the following class grouping.

Class: _____

Class Grouping: _____

