

Split Classes

Dear Parent/carers

It has been brought to my attention that some parents are not happy about split and mixed classes in key stage one.

Firstly, can I say how disappointed I am that our professionalism has been questioned, without you seeking clarification.

As a school we are bound by many legalities that affect our decisions. I will outline some of these in the hope that it alleviates your concerns and worries.

We are bound by a statutory requirement not to have classes bigger than thirty in reception, year one and year two. At the start of next academic year, we will have forty-two children in our y1 cohort and 35 in our y2 cohort.

As a school we cannot set a limit of only admitting thirty into any year group because we have been allocated a **PAN** of forty-five for each of our year groups. The **PAN** is the maximum number of pupils that the admission authority will admit to each year group. This PAN is based on the school's capacity.

As I am sure you can see this means that we are legally bound to admit up to forty-five children.

This year Mr Cohen has taught a mixed class of reception and year one. Yet no-one has raised concerns about this.

We have a legal and moral duty to ensure all children receive a broad and balanced education that they are entitled to. Our curriculum provision is shaped around the knowledge children have to know by the end of certain key points, in primary school. The teaching team know what that knowledge is for the year groups they teach and fully understand that at times this provision needs differentiating to meet all the academic needs within a class. No teacher will ever dumb down their curriculum provision because they have a mixed year group class.

I can assure you that the key stage one team will be and are working very closely to ensure that provision in all three classes meets the needs of all the children they teach. No matter what their year group.

School leaders are currently working with them to ensure provision reflects the needs of their cohort and class.

Recently, the Trust carried out pupil and parent surveys. A summary of responses has been shared with us. One of the questions was around whether parents felt that our teachers help their child to be their best. 98.5% of parents responded positively to this question.

For the children two of the questions were around high expectations and teachers building on what they already know. Again, positive responses were in the 95+%.

This tells us that on the whole our parents and children do know that we will always do the best for every single child we have the privilege to educate. So please do trust that your child's future will not be hindered by split year groups.

Once, restrictions are lifted in the Autumn term, we will happily invite any parents/carers into school to observe the high expectations and challenge that our curriculum provision provides, along with the amazing teaching that happens across the school.

Mrs C.A. Smith
(Head of School)