

## John Henry Primary School Class Placement Guidelines

### Class Placement Guidelines

#### **RATIONALE:**

John Henry Primary School creates its class structure based on the professional judgement of staff considering the students' academic, social and emotional needs, and resources provided.

#### **PROCESS**

The Leadership team and teaching staff establish class structures for the following year based upon anticipated enrolments and estimated funds indicated by the student-centred funding model to employ teaching staff. Factors staff take into consideration when allocating students to classes:

- projected number of students in each year level and past trends
- ratio of boys to girls
- spread of students with respect to academic performance, social development and classroom behaviour
- the best educational needs of the student
- school psychologist recommendations
- special circumstances such as twins or individual family members, and
- constraints of resources or facilities.

Final class list submissions will be ratified by the Principal.

#### **Parent requests:**

- parents are able to make a class placement request based on educational needs
- parents will be notified in through COMPASS to send a written submission with their reasons, addressed to "The Principal" and marked "Confidential" by a set date
- all written parent requests that arrive by the due date will be considered based on educational merits and in relation to the class structure process outlined above
- any late submissions will not be considered, and
- the school cannot guarantee that parent requests will be met.

#### **Advertisement of class lists:**

- A photo of the class will be shared through COMPASS and Social Media on the State-Wide Orientation Day
- Students will bring home on the State-wide transition day written documentation of who their friends are and who their class teacher is.

Should there be more than one class in a particular year level, or the need to form a split grade class, the professional judgement of the Principal, leadership team and relevant teaching staff will decide the placement of individual students. Parent input regarding their child's educational needs will be considered. Requests in relation to choice of teacher will not be considered as a placement factor.

#### **What is the process for placing students into classes?**

Based on the criteria listed above, teaching staff and administration meet mid Term 4 to establish classes for the following school year. Teachers of the current year level meet with the other year level colleagues to create the class lists (i.e. Year 2 teachers decide Year 3 placements etc.). It is acknowledged by all, that friendships are important. However, to ensure balanced classes as outlined above, friendship groups are not a primary determining factor in class placement and this is

not part of our Class Placement Policy. Proposed class lists are submitted to the Principal and Leadership team for final ratification.

### **Why do we ask parents to leave class placement in the hands of the teaching staff?**

As professional educators we strive to make the right choices considering all the information we have to hand. While it is certainly true parents know their children, 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.

- Can I request a particular teacher for my child either in writing or through discussion with my child's present teacher? No, this is not part of the Class Placement Policy.
- Can I request my child's placement with another child's in the classroom? Or, can I request my child not be placed with another particular child? Occasionally, we receive a request 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. We also find young children change best friends.

When allocating children to classes, we endeavour to foster positive social interaction across a year group, by making socially balanced classes and to help prevent non-constructive relationships. If your child is having difficulty with a student in his/ her class, please inform the teacher or the Learning Specialist so problem solving can take place. This is the aspect of the school experience where students learn to function socially with all kinds of people.

- 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.
- When I get my child's class placement, can I request that it be changed? 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. While we feel we consider the individual child during the placement process, parents must realise their child is part of a complex equation. You may talk with the Leadership Team about your concerns and be assured that those concerns will be shared with the teacher as they are expected to have the skills to help children adjust.
- What if my child is having difficulty in his/her new placement after school has started? Can we request a change then? Parents need to talk to the teacher, the Learning Specialist or Principal Team, so the child's needs can be addressed and the issue resolved. Parents play a significant role 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 Leadership staff or your child's teachers.

Ratified by: John Henry Primary School Council August 2017