



# **South Hill Primary School Class mixing Policy**

**February 2020**

## **Rationale**

- To create opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- To enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to new pupils and transition during Key stages
- To promote a greater sense of community in a large two-form entry primary school.

## **Principles**

- Please note that the school will mix cohorts in any year group or key stage that they deem beneficial for the pupils. Class mixing will always take place for the start of the academic year
- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, the Senior Leadership team and the Co-Headteachers
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions
- We will communicate the criteria for class mixing in an open and transparent way
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes.

## **The process**

- Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants observe the children's friendships at work and play
- Class Teachers meet to ensure a good balance of friendships, range of educational, social and personal needs, gender and maturity are represented in each class
- Senior Leadership team meets with Class Teachers to discuss and finalise groupings
- Co-Headteachers and Senior Leadership Team meet and approve classes
- New Classes are shared with parents and children in July when end of year reports are published.

## **Criteria for Class Mixing**

*Classes will be mixed to achieve a good balance according to the following criteria:*

- Gender
- Range of educational, social and personal needs
- Level of maturity
- Friendships\*

\*Friendships- Over the course of their Primary years children will have a range of friendship experiences. We find that some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others can stand the test of time. With that in mind and as we prepare to draw up the class lists we will use observations of the children in the classroom and at play to inform our decision making as well as pupil voice. Common procedure is that each child chooses two friends and we try to accommodate at least one of these choices.

## **Timescales**

- Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants discuss their observations of friendships in the Spring and Summer Term
- Observations are considered along with the other criteria after May half-term
- Class lists are drawn up and shared with Senior Leadership team (June)
- Class lists approved by Co- Headteachers (Early July)
- Class lists communicated to parents and children in July as part of the end of year arrangements.

## **Review**

The Senior Leadership Team and Co- Headteachers will review the process and criteria for each year's class mixing arrangements at the beginning of each Summer Term ahead of the following year's class mixing.