

Vertically Grouped Classes

Parents may appreciate an explanation of this system, which has been used throughout Woodheys for over ten years, as our admission number is 45. We group together years 1 + 2, 3 + 4 and 5 + 6. This creates an average 90+ children. We divide these into 3 classes in each department e.g.

a year 3 class
a year 3/4 class
a year 4 class
a year 4/5 class and so on

1. We usually for example, combine older year 3 children with younger year 4 children, so that the age group is minimal. Splitting classes on age is not a Trafford policy; it is a flexible basic criteria which we choose to use. Other local schools use ability and even friendship groups. The Senior Teacher in each of our departments is delegated the unenviable task of compiling class lists. We reserve the right to make decisions about individual children, due to confidential reasons, which may include behaviour, personality or Special Educational Needs issues. We have total confidence in Senior Staff's ability to make these professional decisions as experienced educationalists.
2. We try to ensure that during KS2 (juniors) children have two years in a plain year group class and two years in a mixed age gap class.
3. Throughout the school we employ extra staff to give help to children who need specific support.
4. All these measures ensure that your children get the maximum support and we continue to raise standards in the school.
5. Please remember that the 'cut off' point for birthdays fluctuates each year due to the flexible population within school. It is also different in each year group, depending on how birthdays fall or group within the year. It is therefore impossible to predict which class your child may move in to.
6. We are unable to facilitate friendship groups but children do all play and socialise together at playtime and lesson time is for learning. By Year 6, when children have continually been forming new friendship bonds, they become a happy and sociable group!
7. Twins will be treated in exactly the same way, unless the school decides that it is beneficial to split them and will discuss this with the parents.
8. All final decisions regarding classes are made by the Head Teacher as delegated by the Governors.
9. Please support the staff in your school re decisions regarding your children's education. Thank you.

'The Headteacher has responsibility for the internal organisation, management and control of the school'.

Paragraph 8 Governing Bodies:
Their Powers and Duties from 'A Guide to the
Law for School Governors;
Community Schools' Feb 2004.