

Scoil Naomh Eltin

Multi Grade Class Policy



Introductory Statement

This policy was the product of whole-staff collaboration in tandem with the Parent Association and Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Eltin.

Rationale

In the interest of providing the best education for all students, it may from time to time be necessary to create a multi-grade class to manage class numbers of any particular year group.

Aims and Objectives of this Policy

- To provide a framework for the organising of multi-grade classes.
- To outline the criteria on which children are selected to be placed in multi-grade classes.
- To limit the enrolment of new children into multi-grade classes, subject to Section 29 of the Education Act.

Framework for the Splitting of Classes

At the time of planning classes, the Principal and Deputy Principal will look at the overall numbers in each year group and the number of teachers available to teach them. They will decide how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities for all children.

Criteria for re-distributing children across particular classes in a multi-grade setting

Scoil Naomh Eltin will group the children in such a way so as to maximise the learning outcomes for each child. When creating multi-grade classes, there are certain objectives to be taken into consideration:

- The formation of mixed-ability groups.
- The balanced distribution of boys and girls in each class.

- A balance of students with needs in each class where possible.
- That each student will have at least one chosen friend in their class, where possible.
- Numbers in the multi-grade class will be kept smaller than that in single stream classes.

The following points are to be noted in the re-distribution of students

- The process of forming new friendships is a life skill which is important to develop. A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in the new groups.
- Multi-grade classes afford pupils an excellent opportunity to make new friends, and old friends will have plenty of opportunities to see each other at yard time, school tours, assembly etc.
- It will seldom be possible to satisfy all demands for groups of friends to be kept together. However, we do ask each pupil to select three friends, with the aim that pupils will be placed with at least one friend on their list.
- The teachers of each class to be redistributed are also consulted on the above matters and much work goes into the preparatory stage of the arrangement prior to the summer holidays.
- Teachers of the multi-grade class will, together with the teachers of the single stream classes, plan and co-ordinate the scheme of work to be covered.
- If a child is in a multi-grade class, then the next year they will be in a single stream class.
- Siblings of different ages will not be placed in the same multi-grade class. Parents will be consulted regarding the placement of twins.
- The decision on class allocation will ultimately lie with the Principal. Once classes have been organised for a school year, we will not under normal circumstances be willing to change pupil's places.

Review of Policy

This policy is subject to review at the discretion of the Board of Management.

Availability of Policy

This policy has been published on the school website, made available to school personnel and provided to the Parent Association.

Ratification of Policy

This policy was ratified at a meeting of the Board of Management in June 2020.

Signed: *Donal Herlihy*
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: June 2020