

Mixed Year Group FAQs

Why do the school need to mix year groups?

- Due to national funding pressures affecting many schools, we need to reorganise our class structure to ensure we can continue to provide high-quality of education.

How will the curriculum be structured?

- All children will continue to follow the full National Curriculum for their specific year group. Teachers are highly skilled at planning lessons that meet the needs of pupils of different ages and stages within the same class.
- Teachers use long-term and short-term plans that map out the curriculum for both year groups. This curriculum mapping is overseen by the SLT who will ensure that the curriculum design including a 2-year planning cycle is in place for mixed-aged classes.
- As a teaching team, the CPD Day on 1st June will be used to support staff and work to plan for mixed aged classes ready for September.

How are the children in each class going to be decided?

- Children will be split using a range of factors including their age, maturity, social mix, gender and academic readiness so we ensure an equal mix in each class.
- We understand that there may be some concerns around spilt year groups disrupting friendships groups. The class groupings will be thoughtfully organised, and children will still mix with their wider year groups during playtimes, assemblies and other shared activities.

What are class sizes likely to be?

- Class sizes will be similar, our KS2 classrooms can accommodate up to 34 children in each class, currently we have a class of 32 children in KS2 (Year 5 which is why Year 6 will be a single year group next year)

What support will my child receive?

- Teachers plan routines and seating arrangements that take into account both age and maturity. Younger children benefit from having positive role models in the classroom, while older children gain confidence and leadership skills. Classroom expectations remain clear and consistent, so all children feel secure and supported.
- Teaching assistants will continue to support children in class dependent on the need.

Will my child have the opportunity to mix with their cohort only?

- Each Year group will have opportunities to join together as a cohort, Year 3 children will experience Nature Day, Year 4 children will have Manor Adventure Residential and Year 4 Spring Explorers at Deer Park. We will also provide opportunities for the Year 5 children to join as a cohort.

When will I find out which class my child will be in and who will be teaching them?

- We will communicate classes and which staff will be teaching which classes to parents prior to our moving up day which is in the second half of the summer term.

Myth Debunking

Children don't make progress in mixed classes

- Mixed aged classes are common, many schools across the county use mixed-age classes for a variety of reasons, including class sizes, staffing, and curriculum planning. Research and experience show that children achieve well in mixed-age settings.
- Teaching in mixed age classes is carefully differentiated. This means that while children may learn together in some lessons, tasks and expectations are tailored for each year group and individual ability. No child will be held back or pushed beyond what is appropriate for them.
- We will continue to communicate regularly about your child's progress, just as we do now. Class teachers will share information about routines, homework and learning expectations for both year groups within the class.

Children just repeat work they have already done

- Teaching for KS2 will follow a 2-year cycle to ensure the curriculum is not repeated, and the curriculum will continue to be sequential and spiral.