

*St Joseph's NS
Hacketstown,
Co. Carlow
059 – 6471199
Roll No: 17127S
htownns@gmail.com*



Policy on Multigrade Classes

It should be noted that:

- Most schools in Ireland now have multigrade classes and Educational research shows very positive benefits for pupils in these groups.
- Multigrade 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 or for activities such as swimming, sacrament preparation or tours etc.
- The school reserves the right to place a child with S.E.N. (Special educational needs) in the group most appropriate to that child's needs.

Rationale:

In the interest of -

- providing the best education for all pupils,
- DES regulations on class size and enrolment
- making optimum use of teaching resources

It may be necessary to divide and combine classes into multi grade groups.

Aims & Objectives of this Policy:

- To provide a framework for organising multi grade classes-e.g. Selection of Classes; selection of pupils and communication with staff and parents
- To outline the criteria on which children will be selected for such classes
- To set out the resources which may be made available to such class groups.
- To work within the parameters of the school Admissions Policy.

Framework for organising multi grade classes:

At the time of planning classes for the coming year, the Principal will look at:

- the overall numbers of children in the school and
- the number of teachers available to the school as per the relevant D.E.S. Staffing Schedule.

The principal will decide how best to organize classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities for all pupils. The following steps will apply where there is a need to create multigrade classes:

-] - Review of numbers in each year group.
-] - Review of number of teachers available to the school.
-] - Discussion & planning with teachers of classes involved.
 - Straight & Multigrade Class groups will be of mixed age & ability.
 - A complete list will be compiled of children in class groupings, set out by date of birth and the principal will select the youngest children in the group.
 - The youngest children in the group will then be placed with the younger of the two classes making up the multi grade class/classes.

In subsequent years if the same class is again split, the best attempt will be made that those children who have been placed in a multigrade class with a younger class will now be placed with an older group.

- Multigrade classes will be reviewed after one year.

Supporting procedures for multigrade classes:

- Teachers will, together, plan the scheme of work to be covered.
- Team teaching/ Co-operative teaching approaches will be used as appropriate.

Allocation of teachers:

It is the duty of the Principal, as per Circular 16/73, to assign teaching duties.

Ratification Communication & Review:

- This Policy was ratified and communicated at the meeting of the Board of Management on May 14th 2020.

It will be reviewed at the end of 2021 school year and amended if necessary.

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Signed _____
Principal