

Seoil Baile an Áird,  
Baile An Áird,  
Cill Mochzallóg  
Co. Luimní

**Herbertstown N.S.**

Herbertstown N.S.,  
Herbertstown,  
Kilmallock,  
Co. Limerick.

**Tel:** 061 385340

**Mob:** 087 7675488

**Email:** herbertstownns@gmail.com

**Uimhir Rolla:** 173641

# Policy for Splitting Classes

#

<b>Ratified by BOM:</b>	_____
<b>Signed:</b>	_____
	<b>Chairperson BOM</b>
<b>Signed:</b>	_____
	<b>Principal</b>
<b>Date of review:</b>	_____

## **Policy: Splitting Classes**

### **Rationale:**

In the interest of providing the best education for all pupils, it may from time to time be necessary to divide and combine class groups into mixed classes, which are smaller in size and offer a better pupil-teacher ratio.

### **Aims and Objectives of this policy:**

- To provide a framework for the splitting of classes
- To outline the criteria for placing children in particular mixed-class groupings
- To set out the supports which may be used to ensure the best learning outcomes for all children in mixed classes
- To set out the arrangement for books and schemes of work for split classes

### **Framework for the splitting of classes**

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

### **Criteria for placing children in particular class groups**

When dividing a class into groups, to be placed in separate classes, there are certain criteria to be taken into consideration:

- It is considered best to form mixed-ability groups
- 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.
- It will seldom be possible to satisfy all demands for groups of friends to be kept together. This decision will lie ultimately with the Principal, who must consider the needs of every child in the class.
- Classes will be split in an open and transparent manner, by random selection, giving due consideration to gender balance. An equal, or as close as possible, number of boys and girls will be drawn from the class which is to be split.
- The drawing of names by random selection for each class grouping will be carried out by the Principal and witnessed by the Chairperson of the BOM and a representative of the Parents' Association.

### **The supports which could be made available to children and teachers in split classes.**

The Principal, the class teacher and the Learning Support team will consult on how best to organise the learning support for the mixed class

- The Learning Support Teacher may work in the classroom with the class teacher, in a team-teaching arrangement.
- The Learning Support Teacher may work in the classroom supporting one child or a small group of children, with the class teacher doing the main teaching of the lesson.
- The Learning Support teacher may take one of the class groupings separately for the teaching of a certain core subject.

These arrangements will be considered on a class by class basis, from year to year.

### **Arrangement for books and schemes of work for split classes.**

- The prescribing of books and planning of schemes of work will be differentiated for the core subjects of Numeracy, Literacy and Gaeilge; thereby each class level will work from textbooks specific to their class level.
- The class teacher will differentiate the remaining curricular subjects using the various methods of differentiation recommended in the Primary School Curriculum (NCCA: 1999)
- Where books are to be bought/used by pupils the class teacher will take due regard of the history of the class groupings to date and the materials and schemes previously covered by their incoming class grouping

### **The allocation of teachers to split/mixed classes.**

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