

All Semley School policies apply to year R to 6 inclusively or Semley School Staff	
Name of Policy	Class Placement Policy
Policy agreed (date)	May 2023
Agreed by the Governing Body	May 2023
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Next review (date)	September 2028

Class Placement Policy

Rationale

Semley CE VA Primary School currently has five classes into which up to 140 pupils can be placed (20 PAN - Pupil Admission Number - x 7 year groups). There are seven age groups within the primary school range: Reception, Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, so with five classes, some will have more than one year group within them.

Consistency of Provision

At Semley CE VA Primary School we pride ourselves on how well we work as a team. To ensure curriculum provision is consistent across year groups in classes where year groups are split, teachers work together through curriculum topics, joint planning and moderation. There is also a 2-year rolling programme in place for curriculum topics to ensure work is not repeated which is monitored closely.

Planned Class Structure

The planned class structure is:

Wrens: Reception

Robins: Year 1 and Year 2

Doves Year 2 and Year 3

Owls: Year 4 and Year 5

Kites: Year 5 and Year 6

Please note: the intended class structure may be subject to change depending on numbers.

Principles

First and foremost, decisions on class placement are made at all times in the best educational interests of the individual child. Within this are four key considerations:

1. **Ability of the child.**

The ability of the child will be determined by objective evidence in the form of assessment data, work in books and observations.

2. **Maturity of the child**

Staff will evaluate the maturity of the child and make an informed decision as to which class would best suit the child's needs. For example, it may be that a more academic child might not have the maturity to cope alongside an older year group.

3. **The requirements of maintaining balanced class sizes across the school.**

Decisions will support the planned class year group combinations as set out above and take account of statutory limits for infant classes.

4. **Social groupings.**

Staff will also consider the social groupings within the class and friendships between children. Alongside the other considerations stated above, staff will try to ensure class groupings positively support children's friendships. Placement of siblings also falls into this category.

Decision Making

- Decisions regarding the placement of children are carefully considered by all the teaching staff based on the above criteria and staff knowledge of the children in their care.
- Parents and children will be informed of the class groupings before the class transition day in early July.
- Parents wishing to seek clarification of the reasoning behind decisions made can make an appointment to discuss this more fully with their child's current class teacher. However, please note that a decision is unlikely to be changed unless exceptional circumstances have been identified.

Conclusion

Staff use their teaching expertise and knowledge of the children to make a professional judgement on class placement. We strongly believe that our approach to mixed-age classes enables children to form friendships across year groups and adds to the "family" feel of the school, where all the children know each other and can have their educational needs best met.