



Golden Valley Class Composition Guidelines

Aim:

Our aim, when building classes, is to ensure each class is well balanced and will provide the optimum environment in which all children can learn successfully and flourish both academically and socially.

Rationale

- At Golden Valley we are fortunate that we have 2 classes in each cohort and that children have a wonderful opportunity to learn, and socialise, with a wide range of peers.
- We value the experiences gained through new class groupings and feel this is an integral part of developing every child as a resilient and confident individual.
- As children grow and change, and new children leave and join classes, the monitoring and reviewing of class groupings is important to ensure that all classes remain balanced.

How New Classes Are Formed

New classes are always created with the input of the child's current class teacher and previous class teachers where appropriate. Class teachers have the best understanding about the academic, social and emotional characteristics of the children they have taught and we trust and value their professional judgement. When classes are formed for the first time, when children join us in Reception, we use information from parents and pre-school settings to help inform our decision-making. When creating new classes, staff consider the following criteria to ensure well balanced classes that can excel in learning together:

- Gender
- Chronological age
- Academic attainment and progress
- Children with special educational needs
- Knowledge of children's successful learning partnerships and friendships

Teachers and Senior Leaders make the decision whether to form new classes or not by the end of Term 5. It is not possible to take parental preferences into account unless in exceptional circumstances (e.g. considering whether or not to separate twins) so please trust the school to make the right decision for each individual child.

Notification

Where a decision has been made to mix classes, parents will be informed of this decision before our annual Move Up Day in Term 6. However the exact composition of the newly formed classes, and the new teacher, will not be shared with children or parents until 'Move-Up' Day in July. This will be the same for children in classes who move up together.

Home-School Support

We know that there are times when children may find a move to a new class, whether newly formed or a familiar group, unsettling. We would ask that you support your child by remaining positive and encouraging. Developing resilient and confident children is very important to us and we endeavour to do all that we can to ensure that children persevere, succeed and are happy in every new situation.

'Sharing Kindness, Challenging Ourselves and Others, Achieving Excellence'

