



Freshwater Bay Primary School

Class Placement Guidelines

Background

Classes are to be formed in such a way as to best meet the needs of the students within the constraints of the resources available at Freshwater Bay Primary School. The Department of Education allocates funding based on total enrolments from Kindergarten to Year Six. Depending on student numbers at each level, it is often necessary to have some composite classes.

Rationale:

Individual class placements can have significant effects on a student's attainments and should be based on professional judgements by the staff about the student's educational needs.

Process:

- The Principal establishes class structure options for the following year based on anticipated enrolments and historical data.
- Parents are invited to submit to the Principal, via email, any additional information that they would like considered when placing their child. All parent submissions provided by the due date will be given consideration but will not necessarily be accommodated.
- The staff members currently teaching particular year groups confer regarding placements for the following year. Staff endeavour to form classes that are homogeneous with respect to academic performance, social development, behaviour and gender balance.

Criteria for Placing Students in Classes

Students are placed in classes after considering and reviewing the following:

- Development in curriculum areas.
- Specific educational needs of the child.
- Ability to work with certain peers or the need to separate some individuals.
- Ability to work independently.
- Class placement in previous year.
- Social needs such as twins or family situation.

Composite Classes

When forming composite classes the following criteria need to be considered:

- Independence of students
- Student maturity and behaviour
- Social development
- Social networks
- Previous class placements
- Special needs such as twins and family situations
- School Psychologist recommendations
- Parent information

Teachers cater for a wide range of abilities within every classroom. They do this by differentiating the learning program to meet the needs of each individual student. Research, which has been predominantly conducted in primary schools, suggests there is no discernible difference between composite and straight grade classrooms in terms of academic performance. However, benefits relating to student independence, responsibility and study habits have been highlighted. For example, younger students within a composite class generally aspire to emulate older students work ability, and older students enjoy leadership and mentoring opportunities that lift their self-esteem and self-efficacy.

Publication

- Final class lists will be published prior to commencement of school year.
- Fluctuations in student enrolments may result in the re-structuring of classes.
- Once published, student movement will only occur in extenuating circumstance.