Important Information about Class Organisation – September 2019

Current legislation limits infant (KS1) and Early Years classes to 30 children except in very clear circumstances. In KS2 the governors keep to this number following accepted guidance. We are, however, a 1½ form entry school which means we enrol a maximum of 45 children each year. Obviously, they cannot be placed entirely in one class. Additionally, two classes for each cohort would be financially impossible. Thus schools like St Joseph’s make arrangements which accommodate all via the use of mixed age classes.

Underpinning all we do, we are very much aware that each child is a gift from God and has great value regardless of ability. Each and every child is unique and blessed and we are blessed by their presence. This is not rhetoric but forms the basis of all our curriculum plans. We work very hard at building up each child’s self-esteem and make it clear frequently that ‘put downs’ are not acceptable anywhere. This is especially important when children are grouped by academic ability. A child very capable at writing is no better per se than a child who struggles. They are just better at that skill. Therefore, our classes are grouped randomly, apart from the friendship considerations we arranged last year.

Our classes are arranged as thus:

**EY cohort:** 2 classes arranged randomly
Towards the end of the year, each child will be assigned to a nominal group* S, J or P. Groups will not be based on ability but will have a balanced mix of boys and girls.

*Groups will be named by a neutral term and not by letter or number as this may imply hierarchy.

**Years 1 - 4 mixed through SJP groupings**

- **Y1 1** Mrs Tyerman
- **Y2 2J + some S** Mrs Standon
- **Y2 2P + some S** Mrs Robbins
- **Y3 3S + 3P** Mrs Daly
- **Y3/4 3J + 4P** Mr Williams
- **Y4 4S + 4J** Mrs Ford / Miss Halliday

All children will thereby experience both whole and mixed age classes, ensuring fairness of provision and a rolling curriculum that is designed for key phases not individual year groups. The chart below displays visually the journey a child will make through St Joseph’s if all cohorts remain at greater than 30 children.

**Years 5 and 6**

- **Y5/6 5S + 6S** Mrs Riches
- **Y5/6 5J + 6J** Mrs Tomlinson
- **Y5/6 5P + 6P** Mr McQuaide
We believe the grouping of children in this way is needed to best address their academic and pastoral needs. We would ask parents to support us in this, acting in a truly Christian way and reinforcing the uniqueness and dignity of each child.

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\( s = \) single age class \( m = \) mixed age class