## Composite Classes

### A Guide for Parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are composite classes?</th>
<th>How are composite classes formed?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Composite classes occur where children from two or more year stages are grouped together e.g. P1/2 or P5/6.</td>
<td>In all classes there will be a range of abilities. Children already work in groups in their classes according to their stage of learning.</td>
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<td><strong>Why do composite classes have to be formed?</strong></td>
<td>When making decisions on which children will be included in a composite class, the Head Teacher will consider the following:</td>
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| **When will a composite class be formed?** | • Existing language groupings  
• Attainment levels  
• Evidence of child’s work |
| | Composite classes will be formed towards the end of an academic year in preparation for the following session. This will usually be during the first two weeks in June. |
| | Class teachers may not yet be allocated to schools at this time. This is due to the final allocation of newly qualified teachers and other staff changes. |

In law, the maximum number of children in classes are:-

- P1  25
- P2  30
- P3  30
- P4  33
- P5  33
- P6  33
- P7  33

Composite classes are formed when the number of children at a year stage is greater than that allowed, or where the number is much smaller than the number allowed.

A composite class has a maximum number of 25 children.
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<th>Who decides?</th>
<th>Can a composite class continue for a second year?</th>
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<td>The staffing allocation for each school is determined by Education Services. Responsibility for class structure rests with the Head Teacher. Children are allocated to classes after discussion with promoted staff, class teachers and early education staff if appropriate.</td>
<td>In many cases, a composite class can successfully continue as a class group for a second year or more. Indeed, some children may be in a composite class throughout their time in Primary School.</td>
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### What happens next?

The Head Teacher will:

- Advise the Parent Council of class structures
- Send a letter to all parents/carers of these children outlining the new class structure and the pupil's class
- Extend an invitation to all parents/carers of these children to contact the school should they wish to discuss these arrangements.

### What is the Authority's view?

- Children who are taught in a composite class have the same learning opportunities as children who are in a straight class
- There will be opportunities for year groups to come together for particular educational and social activities
- All children are actively encouraged to achieve their full potential in a supportive, challenging and motivating educational environment

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June 2015