Scoil Chaitríona Naofa

Division of Classes Policy

Introduction:

This policy has been developed by the staff of Scoil Chaitríona Naofa in tandem with the Board of Management.

It should be noted that:

- Many schools in Ireland now have multigrade classes and educational research shows very positive benefits for pupils in these groups.
- Multigrade classes afford pupils an excellent opportunity to make new friends and old friends will have plenty of opportunities to see each other at yard time, or for some activities such as swimming, sacrament preparation, tours etc.
- The school reserves the right to place a pupil with Special Educational Needs (SEN) into the group most appropriate to that child's needs.

Rationale:

- In the interest of providing the best education for all pupils.
- Being in keeping with DES regulations on class size and enrolment
- Making optimum use of teaching resources.

Aims and objectives of this policy:

- To provide a framework for organising multigrade/split classes.
- To outline the procedure for organising placement of pupils in classes.

Framework for organising class splits/multigrade classes.

At the time of planning classes for the coming year, the principal will look at:

- The overall numbers of children in the school.
- The number of teachers available to the school as per the DES Staffing Schedule.

The principal will decide how best to organise classes with the view to providing the best educational opportunities for all pupils. The following will apply where there is need to create a split class:

- Review of numbers in each year group.
- Review of number of teachers available to the school.
- The process of class division for the following September will commence in May each year.
- As stated elsewhere, the school reserves the right to place a pupil with Special Educational Needs (SEN) into the group most appropriate to that child's needs.
- Similarly, behavioural history may also be taken into consideration when forming new groupings. This will be done through consultation with teaching staff.
- Following such considerations having taken place:
- The division of the class will be based on keeping a balance between boys and girls in each class. The selection of children for each class will be done by drawing of lots by the Chairperson of the Board of Management at a meeting of the Board of Management. This will be done by choosing one boy followed by one girl until the requisite number of pupils has been reached.
- All classes will be reunited at breaktime and for certain school activities.
- Parents will be notified in June about the division of classes. No parent will receive special consideration outside the school's stated procedures otherwise all pupils would be entitled to the same consideration, leaving the task of dividing the group impossible.

Enrolment of new pupils into split classes:

This will be judged on a case by case basis with due regard given to the school's Admissions Policy and the terms of Section 29 of the Education Act.

Supporting Procedures for multigrade/split classes:

- Teachers will, together plan the scheme of work to be covered so a divided class can fairly access the same curriculum.
- Team teaching/Cooperative teaching strategies may be used as appropriate.

Allocation of teachers

- It is the duty of the principal as per circular 16/73 to assign teaching duties.

Ratified by the Board of Management:

Signed: Chairperson _____

Date: 28/4/2023.