



Ysgol y Graig

Class Organisation Policy

(Version 1.1 & September 2019)

Information about this policy

A policy for class sizes and the distribution and organisation of pupils to classes

This policy is supported by Anglesey LEA Lifelong Learning Department.

25/09/2019

Mixed Classes Policy

Ysgol y Graig

Statutory Regulations

This policy ensures that, where we can, we abide by the regulations and terms of statutory grant funding set out by the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that our classes do not exceed 30 pupils in the Foundation Phase.

"It is statutory that authorities limit infant class sizes (excluding nursery classes) to no more than 30 pupils and best practice to ensure junior class sizes do not exceed 30 pupils."

There are exceptions to these regulations (called "excepted pupils") which may allow the 30 pupil class limit to be exceeded.

These pupils are:

(a) children whose statements of special needs specify that they should be educated at the school concerned

(b) children initially refused admission to a school, but subsequently offered a place outside a normal admissions round by direction of an admissions appeal panel, or because the person responsible for making the original decision recognises that an error was made in implementing the school's admission arrangements.

The school's standard number is 47 pupils in every year group. However, year groups at the time of producing this policy vary between 34 and 53, which means that it is impossible to have two straight aged classes in every year group due the complex mix of year groups within the school.

The process

Stage 1

A complete school listing is prepared in order of date of birth. All new pupils expected for the Autumn Term will be provisionally included from the numbers provided by Anglesey's Lifelong Learning Department. Pupils with a known leaving date will be removed from the lists.

Stage 2

The class distribution will be considered on the basis of pupil numbers.

This year the school has received a grant from the Welsh Government to ensure that classes in the Foundation Phase have fewer than 30 pupils. Class sizes will therefore be determined in accordance with the principle that, where possible, all classes must have fewer than 30 pupils, with mixed age classes preferably less in number than pure age classes, to ensure a balance of numbers in each class across the school. The distribution of class numbers may change each year in line with school numbers. With the numbers of children in each school year varying, different mixed-age classes may be required each year.

If the classes are organised with mixed age pupils, a mix of children will be organised according to age and gender. The initial allocation will ensure that at least six children of a single age group are in a mixed age class. No two boys or two girls should be separated from their year group.

They are exchanged with the next number of the opposite sex. In a situation where six children arise then they will be divided equally in terms of gender, 3/3, and pupils will be exchanged to allow this, unless exceptional circumstances mean that this is

not possible. In such a situation, consideration could be given to dividing the children by gender on a 4/2 pattern.

Stage 3

These lists are analyzed by staff, and if deemed necessary, discretion is exercised in the best interests of pupils, e.g. specific ALN cases, safeguarding cases, children with challenging behaviour, twins or triplets, children in need or children on the Child Protection Register. If professional agencies and/or teachers consider it necessary to protect the educational and social needs of these children, individual pupils will be transferred into or out of groups.

Parents of other children will not have the right to ask for the reasoning behind these transfers, in order to protect the identity, confidentiality and needs of individual pupils and their families. This information will be shared with the Chair of the Governing Body if necessary through the complaints process.

During the third week of June the pupils and their parents will be informed which class the children will be attending in September.

How are pupils taught in mixed age class?

When children are placed in mixed age classes they will follow the same National Curriculum through a variety of themes at a level appropriate to their individual ability. Children will not be “held back” or “struggle to keep up” in any class.

All teachers are trained to work in mixed ability classes whether in a straight year group or in a mixed age class. All tasks are differentiated to challenge the needs of individuals wherever they are on their learning continuum.

In all primary classes there are a wide range of abilities and all children will learn in different ways at a different pace, responding to a variety of methods and resources. Teachers are able to adapt to the different needs within any class and plan accordingly.

Programmes and schemes of work are compiled to suit the development needs of all learners in different groupings.

Opportunities are offered for children from the same year group to mix together during break times, lunch times, after school activities, concerts and sport teams, collective worship etc.

Complaints and Appeals

The organisation of classes is carefully considered to enhance the best chances of educational success for all pupils at the school. The school senior management's motivation when organising classes is to protect the teaching and learning interests of the whole school, making the best decision in the interest of all pupils, not one pupil or indeed one year group. Class organisation is a managerial decision based on this policy. The Governing Body have delegated the responsibility of day to day management of the school to the Head teacher and Senior Management Team.

Parents cannot refuse to have their child placed in any class at Ysgol y Graig. However, if a parent feels that the school has not adhered to the Mixed Class Policy, they can raise any concern with the Head teacher initially, who will be able to reassure parents with regards to the class set for the child.

If they remain unsatisfied, they should raise their concerns in line with the Governing Body's Complaints Policy. Details of this policy are available from the school website or the school office.

Reviewed: December 2021