



Policy:	Composition of Classes
Released:	2001
Reviewed:	2014
Next Review:	2019

Rationale

At St Jerome's the classes are constructed in the best interests of the children. This happens on a yearly basis. Teachers have excellent knowledge of how the children relate, work and socialise in current classes and the playground, and all of this information is used in the composition of classes. We believe it is in the best interests of the children to experience different social groups as they move through various phases of development. This is based on the Christian principles of honouring and respecting each individual's goodness and that as our Christian faith is built on a relationship with Jesus we can seek to develop Gospel values through our relationships with each other.

Principles

1. The process the teachers follow in mixing classes is not a random one. A great deal of thought and care goes into preparing the class lists.
2. As we can experience movement of families (and staff members) in and out of the school community over the Christmas holidays the school reserves the right to make any adjustments to the class lists.

Classes will not be formed solely on the basis of friendship groups.

Procedures

1. Consultation regarding the placement of students occurs between teachers, the Leadership Team, the Education Support Team, the School Psychologist and other related parties where deemed necessary.
2. Parents are advised to inform the Principal in writing of any **significant** information or circumstances that are not known to teachers, that parents feel should be considered when constructing the new class groups. This invitation does not extend to 'lobbying' teachers so that the child is placed with friends.
3. The school makes the final decision about which class the student is placed in.
4. Parents are asked to respect the decisions made and trust that the teachers have taken all factors into consideration. Class numbers and gender distribution may vary from class to class in each year level as teachers endeavour to find the best composition for the classes, taking into account the many complex variables .
5. Classes may be formed before teachers are allocated teaching positions for the forthcoming year; therefore requests for a particular teacher are inappropriate and cannot be taken into account.
6. Teachers will meet with year level colleagues to consider the best combinations for new classes taking into account social, emotional, academic, and behavioural factors.
7. Class lists will be published in the last week of Term 4.

Review History

- Year 2009
- Year 2014

Next Review

Year	Person / Group Responsible
2019	Principal