

Composite Classes Information

Schools want to give children the right learning opportunities and make best use of their resources. Schools are allocated teaching staff according to the total number of pupils in the school. The current maximum class sizes are:

P1	25
P2 and P3	30
P4, P5, P6 and P7	33
Composite classes	25

When we cannot make up full classes we must then create composite classes. In smaller schools there may be children from three or more year groups in one class. In our school composite classes have children from two year groups. This is usual in every school and there are thousands of composite classes across Scotland each year.

Children are taught according to their own ability and not according to their age. In any class there can be children working across several levels even though they are the same age. Teachers differentiate according to ability to meet the needs of all learners.

When we make up composite classes we take a number of factors into consideration. We look at groups that work at similar levels (reading and maths groups), friendship groups and the balance of girls and boys in the class.

A lot of discussion goes into the process and decisions are not taken lightly. We ask parents to trust us to place their children in the class and grouping most suited to them educationally, socially and emotionally.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child still be able to socialise with the rest of the year group?

Yes, all children mix at playtime and lunchtimes and there are regular opportunities for year groups to work together.

My child is going to be in a class with younger children does this mean they are weaker in the year group?

No, absolutely not. The groups of children selected for composite classes are chosen because they are part of a group from the same year who are able to work well together.

Will my child miss out because they are doing different projects from others in the same year group?

No. Science, social subjects, expressive arts and technologies are about the teaching of a range of skills. The same skills can be taught through different projects. Your child will be developing the skills required for the level he/she is at through whichever project is studied.

Will my child progress at the same rate in a composite class, as in a single stage class?

Yes, we're committed to excellence for all. We make sure children in composite classes have the right opportunities for learning, so they reach their full potential. Even in single stage classes there will be a range of ages, needs and aptitudes. Our teachers support them all.

Will my child miss out on activities for their year group due to being in a composite class?

Children will not miss out on any activities which are specifically for their year group e.g. P4 swimming.

Will the teacher have less time for the children because there are two year groups in the class?

All teachers have to plan for different ability groups of children and a composite class will have a maximum of 25 pupils. We carefully select groups of children who work at the same level in order to maximise quality teaching time.

Do children in composite classes perform as well as those in single stage classes?

Yes. There is no evidence that composite classes are detrimental to a child's education.

It is important to us that your child is happy and achieving at school and we do everything we can to achieve this.

If you have any concerns or questions which have not been answered in this leaflet please do not hesitate to contact us.