

## **Policy on Splitting Classes**

### **Introduction**

This policy was the product of whole staff collaboration in tandem with the Board of Management of St. Patrick's NS

### **Rationale**

As a school catering for 8 classes from Junior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> and with 5 mainstream teachers, it is inevitable that one or more class group may be taught in a multigrade setting i.e. while children are in the same class they may be in two different classrooms. This ensures equality of access for all children to school resources and a fair pupil teacher ratio throughout the school.

### **Aims and Objectives of this Policy**

- To provide a framework for the establishment of **multigrade** groups
- To outline the criteria on which children are selected to be placed in specific **multigrade** settings

### **Framework for the establishment of multigrade classes**

At the time of planning the classes for the coming year, the Principal will look at the overall numbers in each year group and the number of teachers available to teach them. She will decide how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities for all children.

### **Criteria for creating a multigrade group**

When creating a multigrade group, there are certain criteria to be taken into consideration.

- It is considered best practice to ensure there is an equal gender balance in each classroom where practicable possible.
- The multigrade groups will always be mixed ability
- When it is necessary for children from one class to be in two different classrooms i.e. multigrade they will be allocated based on alphabetical order of their surname.

In an effort to ensure consistency in teaching and planning teachers of split classes will be facilitated to allow time to plan together.

**The allocation of teachers to multigrade classes**

**It is the duty of the Principal as per Circular 16/73 to assign teaching duties**

**This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis in the last term**

Date: 30 | 3 | 23.

Signed: Gerry Donohoe  
Gerry donohoe  
Chairperson, BOM

Signed: Mary Farrell  
Mary Farrell  
Principal