



Our Lady of Good Counsel BNS

Reconstitution of Classes Policy

Introduction

This policy is the product of a whole staff collaboration in conjunction with Parents and the Board of Management of OLGCBNS school. Principals and teachers are often concerned that an uneven mix can sometimes occur in classes which can have unsatisfactory consequences for everyone. Often children can move to Secondary School without having had the opportunity of getting to know many of the children from the parallel class. A system of reconstituting classes has been tried in other schools and has gained widespread acceptance from B.O.M. children, parents and teachers.

This policy review has been discussed at whole staff level, within the In School Management Team and with parental input.

We surveyed parents in January 2023 on the process of reconstituting the classes at the end of 2nd.

*93% of parents said that the process achieves the rationale

*73% reported a beneficial impact on their son(s)

*99% agreed that the school should communicate the new class groupings to the children

*89% thought that the end of 2nd class was the most suitable time to reconstitute or mix the classes

Other feedback:

-Staff did a wonderful job supporting the new classes

-A number of parents requested more time for children to mix in June

-Be considerate of all children's needs and situations at the time

-Parents supported for reasons outlined in rationale but have reported that mixing suits some and not all

-Appreciate questionnaires and that parental input is taken into consideration

-Fantastic for increasing social circles

-Positive for developing new friendships and increasing interests

-Possibility of introducing the reconstitution at the end of 5th.

Taking this feedback into account, and that of our staff, we will proceed with reconstituting classes at the end of 2nd and we will start the process earlier, allowing the month of June to mix with new class groupings.

The possibility of further reconstitution at the end of 5th has been suggested by staff. In some circumstances, the school may feel the need to regroup another class level should circumstances warrant it. Reasons for additional reconstitution will be based on criteria mentioned above. The regrouping procedure will remain the same although children will be asked to name 3 friends they would like to be with in their new class.

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The school will guarantee that at least one of these children will be in their class. Parents/guardians will be notified if the school has difficulty honouring this request. Parents will be informed of this decision in Term 2.

Rationale

In the interests of providing the best possible education for all pupils, it was felt by staff and the B.O.M. that classes would be reconstituted at the end of 2nd class. Some of the reasons for this are as follows:

- (i) To provide the best inclusive education for all pupils.
- (ii) Achieve a better balance in the allocation of resources to classes.
- (iii) Achieve a better balance in classes.
- (iv) Pupils get to know other pupils
- (v) Further improve the atmosphere in the school.
- (vi) Break unhealthy cliques
- (vii) Help children who may not be getting on well in their current class.
- (viii) Children experience and learn to cope with change.
- (ix) Provide good preparation for secondary school as it would help the children to get used to change within a safe environment and with the support of friends.

Aim of this Policy

To explain the rational, process and factors considered when regrouping.

Co-operation between home and school. The process of forming new friendships is the key life skill that is important to develop. A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in the reconstituted classes.

Regrouping Procedure

The following steps will be followed when regrouping a class.

S.P.H.E. programme in the second term with an emphasis on friendship.

1. Children will be asked to name 6 friends they would like to be with in their new class.
2. The school will guarantee that at least one of these children will be in their class. Parents/guardians will be notified if the school has difficulty honouring this request.
3. If parents have concerns, or, have any additional information that they feel should be considered when reconstituting the classes, they are to make contact with the Principal prior to the final date of the friendship list being submitted. The school will not be in the position to re look at groupings once the children and parents have been informed.
4. In June, the Principal, teachers of classes being reconstituted, SET teachers and if necessary previous teachers will attend class regrouping meetings. In line with the criteria for reconstituting classes, 2/4 class lists will be drawn up.
5. Children will be grouped in such a way to maximise the learning outcomes for each child. When re-constituting a class, the following factors will be considered.
 - A. Balance ability groupings.
 - B. Emotional and behavioural balance.
 - C. Class dynamics.

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- D. Friendship groups.
- E. Special education needs of pupils.
- F. Friend requests.
- G. Medical needs.

6. The new classes will be afforded opportunities in the last month of school to mix with their new class group.

7. At least a week before the end of school parents and children will be notified as to what class their child has been put. Decisions regarding individual teachers will not be made until staff recruitment is complete.

It is envisaged that once new class groupings are formed every effort will be made to keep that class together going forward.

In some circumstances, the school may feel the need to regroup another class level. Parents will be informed of this decision in Term 2.

Classes that have been regrouped can reunite daily at break time so they can maintain existing friendships as well as make new friends in the new class. This increases their circle of friends and their ability to form new friendships.

This policy was reviewed in February 2023

Implementation: Immediate

Review : An annual review will be held and ongoing monitoring will take place.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the B.O.M. at its meeting.

Signed :..... Date :.....
Michael J. Hunt 20th February 2023
Chairperson

Signed :..... Date :.....
Michelle Cotterell 20th February 2023
Principal

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