



### **Policy for Division of Classes / Allocation re Multi-grade Classes**

This policy has been developed by the teaching staff of Naas CNS and consultation has taken place with the parent body through the PTA. The following has been agreed.

#### **It should be noted that:**

- Most schools in Ireland now have multi-grade classes and Educational research shows very positive benefits for pupils in these groups.
- Multi-grade classes afford pupils an excellent opportunity to make new friends and old friends will have plenty of opportunities to see each other at yard time or for activities such as swimming, sacrament preparation or tours etc.
- The school reserves the right to place a child with S.E.N. (Special educational needs) in the group most appropriate to that child's needs.

#### **Rationale:**

In the interest of -

- Providing the best education for all pupils,
- Being in keeping with DES regulations on class size and enrolment
- Making optimum use of teaching resources

It may be necessary to divide and combine classes into multi-grade groups.

#### **Aims & Objectives of this Policy:**

- To provide a framework for organising multi-grade classes-e.g. Selection of Classes; selection of pupils and communication with staff and parents
- To outline the criteria on which children will be selected for such classes
- To set out the resources which may be made available to such class groups.
- To work within the parameters of the school's Enrolment Policy.
- To allow for effective communication of the policy with to staff & parents.

#### **Framework for the splitting of 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. He or she will decide how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities for all children.

#### **Criteria considered**

Classes will be divided/split in consideration of one or all of the following criteria: -

- Age, ability and maturity including social, emotional, physical and interpersonal skills.



- Teachers' professional opinion.
- Classroom dynamics which may change from year to year.
- Family considerations e.g. twins, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles etc.
- Gender considerations.
- Fluctuating enrolment / demand for places
- Classroom accommodation
- Other considerations which may arise at the discretion of the Principal

The number of teachers in the school set against the number of pupils will dictate that there may be times when some class groupings will be organised into a multi grade setting. The following guidelines are applied but are open to modification if, in the professional judgement of Principal and staff, this is required.

- Allowance will generally be made so as not to have siblings in the same classroom.
- Due consideration is always given to having a mixed gender and on the basis of a fair ratio of boys to girls.
- Every effort will be made to ensure your child will have one friend in their class.
- Consideration will also be given to the number of SEN children in a classroom
- The number of children in the other class in the classrooms involved will also be a factor.
- In as far as is practically possible due consideration will be given to the fact that a teacher may have taught a particular group of children for more than two years.