

Rathcormac National School,  
Drumcliffe,  
Co. Sligo.  
F91 NX21



Principal  
Mr Frank O'Sullivan  
Roll No. 19408 N

Phone No. 071 9143962.  
Mobile: 0876817267.

Website: [www.rathcormacns.ie](http://www.rathcormacns.ie)  
Email: [office@rathcormacns.ie](mailto:office@rathcormacns.ie)  
[principal@rathcormacns.ie](mailto:principal@rathcormacns.ie)

---

## Policy on Split Class

### **Opening Statement.**

The rights, needs and best educational interests of the pupils will be the over-riding primary concern in allocation of teaching staff and selection of children for classes. The Principal allocates classes following consultation with staff within the frame of reference of this policy. It is the responsibility of the principal to allocate teachers and assign pupils to classes in the school. (Circular 16/73)  
Teachers /Parents /guardians should consult only with the principal re. any concerns in relation to allocation.

### **Rationale.**

- The D.E.S. staffing schedule which advises a maximum average class size of 25 children. Schools are allocated classroom teachers on this basis.
- Given the variation in numbers between classes there may be mixed class groupings and this policy puts a system in place to deal with this eventuality.

### **Procedures in Relation to Division of Classes.**

- Maximum class size of 25 will be adhered to whenever possible.
- In selecting a group of children to be placed in a mixed class group, the first criterion taken into account will be age.
- Normally the younger children in a group will be placed in a lower class and the older children placed in a higher class.
- Other criteria which may influence placement include:
  - Presence of siblings in classes.
  - Educational Factors.
  - Gender Balance.
  - Transfer from other schools, where this transfer occurs after classes have been assigned.
  - Children with recognised special needs, where those needs have classroom management issues. These needs may include children with physical disabilities, psychologically assessed educational or emotional special needs, teacher/school assessed educational needs, medical or psychiatric reports.

- Placement will normally be finalised in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the new school year.
- Provisional class grouping will be made in June of the preceding school year.
- There will be a minimum of six children in a split group, with gender balance in proportion with the rest of the class.
- Children will not be place in a split class arrangement in consecutive years, unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- It will not always be possible to keep friends together. The process of forming new friendships is a life skill which is important to develop. A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in new groups.

The selection of children for classes will be made by the principal following this process and presented to the B.O.M.

Appeals in writing to the Chairman of the Board will only be considered within the terms of reference of this policy.

This Policy has been ratified by the Board of Management and will be reviewed in 2024.

Signed: Tom Hever  
Fr. Tom Hever (Chairperson)

Date: 21/2/2022