

My child has been put into a composite class with pupils from a class stage below him/her. Is he/she being kept back?

No, this is certainly not the case.

You can be confident that the Head Teacher will have organised classes to make best use of available staff, resources and space. In so doing he/she will have sought advice from the education authority and allocated children to particular classes according to authority policy and guidelines. This will normally be based on date of birth. Children will progress through learning experiences tailored to fit their personal level of attainment.

My child's friends are all in another class. What should I do?

You should be assured that your child's teacher will be sensitive to the needs of all children in his/her class and will be encouraging the class to develop good working relationships with each other. There will be many opportunities for your child to continue to be involved with his/her whole year group including some curricular activities and social activities such as playtimes.

Consultation with parents

Your school will keep you fully informed of the arrangements for the allocation of classes. This will be done at as early a stage as possible before the end of the current school session. If you would like to discuss the decisions made for your child then the Head Teacher would be happy to meet with you to answer any questions.

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting Fiona Patton Tel 01738 476371

Your Child in a Composite Class

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Information for Parents/Carers



**PERTH &
KINROSS
COUNCIL**

**Education &
Children's Services**

What is a composite class?

Primary schools have pupils at seven year stages, Primary 1 to Primary 7. A year or stage is defined as a group of children entering primary education at a common date.

A composite class is one where children of two or more year stages are grouped together to form a class.

Why are composite classes formed?

Schools are staffed to agreed standards based on the total number of pupils within the school regardless of the number of children at each year stage. Head Teachers organise their classes to make best use of available staff, resources and space. Both educational and organisational factors are taken into consideration.

Perth & Kinross Council has a range of schools where composite classes are a regular feature.

How are composite classes formed?

The Head Teacher will structure classes based on advice given by the education authority.

In Perth and Kinross composite classes are normally formed on the basis of age. This means for example that when forming a P2/3 class and a single stage P3 class the Head Teacher would allocate a group of the oldest P2 children to the composite P2/3 class.

Likewise in forming a single stage P4 class and a composite P3/4 class the youngest group of P4 children would be placed in the composite class.

How can a teacher teach two or more stages at once?

Whether your child is in a single stage class or a composite class you can be confident that the staff in your school are skilled at providing appropriate teaching and learning opportunities for all children. Your child will be working within a programme of nationally agreed guidelines and the activities will be appropriate for his/her age, ability and aptitude. Within a single stage class, activities will also be appropriate for a range of abilities and aptitudes.

Will the children in the composite class get the same opportunities as the children in the single stage class?

Children in all classes will follow programmes constructed to help them progress at their own level, regardless of whether or not they are in a composite or single year stage class.

In addition, the school will make every effort to involve children of any one year group in activities which bring them altogether. However, it is important that the natural identity of each class is maintained and the school will ensure that this happens.

The children in the composite class study different topics from the single stage class. Should I be concerned?

There is no need to be concerned.

Topics are used as a context for developing skills and in that respect all children will be developing the skills appropriate for their age, ability and aptitude. At both school level and education authority level, quality assurance procedures exist to ensure that your child is making appropriate progress within the nationally agreed curriculum guidelines.