

# **Policy on Mixing of Classes**

**Ratified: June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Signed:                      Chairperson of the Board**

## **Policy on Mixing of Classes**

### **Introduction:**

This policy was the product of whole staff collaboration in tandem with the Board of Management and following input from the parents of Harold's Cross N.S.

### **Rationale:**

Since 2009 the pupil enrolment in our school has been growing at a steady rate. Prior to this, the school operated a multi-class or a single stream scenario depending on the pupil numbers in a certain year. Due to our increasing numbers over the past ten years we are now a double stream and in the interest of providing the best all round education for all our students, it has been decided that, where deemed necessary certain classes will be mixed. The decision to mix classes lies ultimately with the Principal, staff and the Board of Management.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

To provide a framework for the mixing of classes.

To outline the criteria by which classes are selected and the factors that may result in classes of a same standard being regrouped.

### **Criteria:**

Classes may be mixed –

To ensure that there is gender balance

To ensure an equal division of learning needs and mixed ability pupils in each class.

When there is a need to improve dynamics within a class based on social, emotional or behavioural considerations.

To provide adequate learning support and SNA supports to ensure access to those who need it, taking staffing allocations into account.

To develop the skills of forming new friendships and to prepare pupils for secondary school where they will have to deal on a daily basis with being part of changing groups of pupils throughout the school day.

### **Management of the mixing of classes.**

The principal will inform the Board annually which classes have been proposed for mixing and the reasons why.

Parents will be informed in June of each year which classes will be mixed for the coming year.

When dividing the children, cognizance will be taken of the above criteria to ensure that the needs of all the children are met.

The principal will meet with the class teachers, relevant SEN teachers and if necessary previous class teachers in early May initially to discuss and decide on which classes may need to be regrouped on a needs basis and then to decide on the grouping of pupils.

Each child will be asked to nominate three pupils with whom they would like to move. The staff will endeavor to ensure that each child is accompanied by at least one of these pupils into the “new mix”. However if the principal and staff feel that the child’s proposal is not in his/her best interest, the nomination will be declined.

The teachers will also prepare the children for the new scenario.

A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in ensuring a smooth and positive transition for the children. The staff will do everything in their power to ensure that close friendships are maintained.

**Implementation:** This policy was ratified at a meeting of the Board of Management on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This policy was implemented originally from September 2016. A copy will be placed on the school website under policies and is available to staff in the school drive.

**Ratified:** On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by the board.

**Review:** It will be reviewed every three years or the need arises