



The Vineyard class reassignment information sheet for parents

Introduction

This policy was the product of whole-staff collaboration in tandem with the class liaison parent's representatives and Board of Governors

Rationale

In the interest of providing the best education for all students, we have had the long- standing practice to divide and recombine class groups, which allows for a re-balancing of classes to consider a range of characteristics and needs.

Criteria for placing children in particular class groups

We group the children in such a way so as to maximise the learning outcomes for *each child*. When dividing a class into groups, to be placed in separate classes, there are certain criteria to be taken into consideration:

- It is considered best to form mixed-ability groups
- Distribution of boys/girls in classes
- The dynamics of the class must be considered. Emotional, behavioural and social factors which could upset the dynamic of the new class should be taken into consideration when forming new groupings.
- 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 the new groups.
- It will seldom be possible to satisfy all demands for groups of friends to be kept together.

This means it is not always possible to keep friends together but the teachers of each class to be split are consulted on the above issues and much work goes into the preparatory stage of the arrangement prior to the summer holidays. Classes that have been split reunite daily to play together on the playground/sports field during breaks so they can maintain existing friendships as well as make new friends in the new group. This increases their circle of friends and their abilities to form new friendships. All of these arrangements must be considered on a class by class basis, from year to year.