

BLAKEHURST PUBLIC SCHOOL



CLASS PLACEMENT GUIDELINES



Rationale

Blakehurst Public School has clear guidelines for formulating classes. These guidelines apply to both the formation of classes at the beginning of the school year and the placement of newly enrolled students throughout the school year.

All decisions regarding class placements are made in the best interests of the students. The decision making process is rigorous, collaborative and considers a range of information to ensure that classes are balanced and placements best support the academic, social and emotional needs of students.

Criteria Used to Form Class Lists

Factors influencing class structures are:

- The educational needs of the students
- The projected number of students in each year level
- The ratio of girls to boys
- Projected enrolment during the year based on past trends
- The number of teachers employed at the school
- Resources and facilities

Factors which are considered in the placement of students include:

- Learning needs
- Behaviour
- Gender
- Learning and social networks
- Social and emotional maturity
- Family situations e.g. twins, siblings.

Factors which are considered in the placement of newly enrolled students include:

- Current class numbers
- Placement of other family members currently at the school (if applicable)
- Behaviour
- Gender
- Placement of current students who receive EALD or LAST support if this also applies to the newly enrolled student

The leadership team and teaching staff will decide the placement of individual students. Family input regarding their child's educational needs will be considered when it aligns with the placement criteria.

Process for Placing Students into Classes

Based on the criteria listed, teaching and support staff meet midway through Term 4 to establish classes for the following school year. Proposed classes are submitted to the leadership team for final ratification. Student class placements will be communicated to families later in Term 4. Next year's classes will commence in the final week of Term 4 so that the students are settled into their new classes prior to the holidays.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the school have composite classes?

Class distribution is considered on the basis of student numbers. In addition to this, the NSW Department of Education has endorsed stage based syllabuses.

Can I request a particular teacher for my child either in writing or through discussion with my child's current teacher?

No, this is not part of the class placement process.

Can I provide information to support the informed placement of my child?

Yes, as long as the information aligns with the placement criteria stated.

Why haven't my requests been actioned?

All family requests are seriously considered and recorded. At times, family requests can conflict with the requests of other families or not align to the professional opinion of staff. Where the request of a parent/carer is not actioned by the school, the Principal will communicate the reasons with the family.

Do teachers request certain student placements into their classes?

No, as teachers are not assigned to a class until after the class placement process. Teachers focus on the class balance and follow the placement criteria to ensure a successful year for all students.

When I get my child's class placement, can it be changed?

The class placements are considered final. Changes to placements are rare due to the fact they cause a chain reaction and impact on the balance of other classes. The school considers the learning and wellbeing of each individual during the placement process and families are made aware that their child is part of a complex equation in school placements. Changes will only occur if there is an identified concern regarding class dynamics once the students commence in their new class. New enrolments at the beginning of the school year or new information that is presented about a child or family after the classes are formed may be appropriate reasons for a change to be considered. If changes are required, these will be minimal and parents/carers will be notified of the reason for the change.

How can I help my child during this process?

Families can help by supporting the informed decisions of the staff and ensuring all conversations with their children about their new class and teacher are positive and encouraging.

Most recent review: November 2019

Next review date: November 2020

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