

Hermitage Park Primary School

Class Organisation 2022/23



Parent Survey Results 2021 / Frequently Asked Questions

These FAQs are intended to give more information to parents about the reorganisation of the class structure of our school next session. The City of Edinburgh Council FAQ *Organising Classes in Primary Schools* is also attached for your reference.

In March 2021 we undertook a survey to find out parent/carer views on class organisation.

What were the results of the survey of parent views on class organisation?

69 parents responded to the survey and responses were gathered from parents of pupils in every year group. The survey asked parents to give feedback on the main criteria for organising classes: Meeting learners needs, Age, Gender Balance and Friendship. There was broad agreement that all were relevant issues to be considered. When asked to rank the 4 criteria from most to least important.

- 74% of respondents felt that Meeting Learning Needs was the most important.
- 20.3% of respondents felt that Friendship was the most important.
- 4.3% of respondents felt that Age was the most important.
- 1.4% of respondents felt that Gender Balance was the most important.

When asked to rate whether they thought consideration of each criteria was not important at all to very important.

- 98.5% of respondents felt that Meeting Learning Needs was important or very important
- 88% of respondents felt that Friendship was important or very important.
- 55% of respondents felt that Age was important or very important.
- 33% of respondents felt that Gender Balance was important or very important.

A few parents referred to the fact that they would prefer not to have composite classes and that composite classes should only take place in particular year groups (some argued upper years and some argued early years). The decision to create a composite class and in which year groups is not one that can be avoided when numbers across year groups are low. Numbers of teachers and funding for classes is allocated on pupil numbers (see attached CEC FAQ).

Organising Class Groups August 2022

How will restructuring of class groupings be organised?

The numbers of pupils in each year group can change throughout the year and as such when we are organising classes we have to build in some flexibility for possible changes. These changes can occur between August – October should numbers of pupils fluctuate.

On our current numbers we will need to re-organise all of our classes. Please note that this will change if numbers fluctuate in the Summer Term. In particular, we will need to keep a close eye

on our incoming Primary 1 numbers as this may impact on our organisation of P2 classes. I will keep parents/carers updated with any changes.

As such, our class organisation for 2022/2023 will be (12 classes)–

**Primary 1A
Primary 1B
Primary 2A
Primary 2B
Primary 3A
Primary 3B
Primary 4
Primary 4/5
Primary 5
Primary 6
Primary 6/7
Primary 7**

In organising our classes, we aim to provide the best possible school experience for our pupils. We will look to meet the needs of all our learners, academically and pastorally. Reflecting the views of the parents who responded to our survey we will first look at ensuring we meet learners needs however, we understand the importance of maintaining existing friendships and providing opportunities for new friendships to be established.

We are concerned that after a very unsettled couple of years for pupils, the class reorganisations may lead to the break-up of well-established friendship groups which could lead to a difficult start to the 2022/23 session for many children.

We are very much aware of all the challenges of the last couple of years and the impact this has had on pupils. As we approach the end of this session and at the beginning of next session there will be a major focus on transition for all the children. Depending on Covid restrictions, the new classes will get time to spend together before the summer and in the new session our Health and Wellbeing work will focus around building positive relationships and friendships. Individual supports for pupils will be put in place as necessary.

If I am unhappy with the class my child has been placed in can I appeal?

No. The City of Edinburgh Council policy is that class placements are not subject to appeal.

Why do we need a composite class in P4/5 and P6/7?

Each year the council looks at each school's organisation to ensure the most effective use of resources. Where the numbers of pupils in two year groups allow for a composite class to be formed, which will then reduce the total number of classes, this is council policy.

This year we have 41 pupils enrolled in our current P3 and 45 pupils enrolled in our current P4. In Primary 4-7 the maximum class size is 33 which means that next year we can reduce the current 4 classes (2 x P3 and 2 x P4) into a P4, P4/5 and P5 class.

We currently have 48 pupils enrolled in our P5 and 40 in our P6. As the maximum class size for these stages is 33 next year we are able to re-organise the stages into 3 classes (a P6, P6/7 and P7 class).

The City of Edinburgh Council FAQ *Organising Classes in Primary Schools* is attached and gives more information on this.

How will the current Primary 1-6 pupils be organised into their new classes?

At the beginning of May, we will be asking pupils in Primary 1-6 to provide the names of friends who they would like to be with in their new class. Our aim will be to ensure that at least one of these friends goes into each class.

The current class teachers, alongside the leadership team, will then collate all the information we have regarding our pupils, including their learning needs, information on friendship groups, and age (where relevant) to create class groups. We will also aim to create an approximate gender balance within each class as having only a small number of boys or girls in a class can also have an impact on friendship groups.

Around the middle of June, we will be able to tell the children their new classes and who their teacher(s) will be, although this will depend on any recruitment required being completed.

Will my child be repeating work they have already completed if they are in the composite class?

Primary 4 pupils in the composite class will be taught using the First Level curriculum and the Primary 5 pupils will be taught using the Second Level curriculum. Although Primary 6 and Primary 7 are both taught using the Second Level curriculum class teachers will ensure they do not duplicate any prior learning.

Class teachers differentiate the learning in all classes and your child will be taught at the appropriate pace for their individual needs. Class teachers will plan together to ensure there is a consistency of experience for all pupils. Where there are identified learning activities for specific year stages then these will be taught separately.

How would the P7 transition, P7 show, Lagganlia trip and other leavers' activities be managed for the P6/7 class?

All the Primary 7s in the P6/7 class will have the same opportunities as the other P7s e.g. Lagganlia, the P7 show and P7 transition activities for high school. During these times the P6s in the P6/7 class will do other work relevant to their year group.

Will there be "ability" groups within the P4/5 and P6/7 class rather than work groups being based on whether a pupil is in a particular stage? If so, how would these be managed?

In all classes our aim is to provide learning experiences which meet learners needs and provide the appropriate amount of challenge. The ways in which learning and teaching are organised in primary schools means that the work is tailored to meet the needs and current achievement levels of individual pupils rather than particular year stages. In all primary classes there will be wide ranges of abilities and all children will learn in different ways, responding to a variety of methods and resources. Our teachers are well able to adapt to the different needs within any class and plan accordingly.

Will the P7s in the P6/7 wear the P7 hoodies?

Yes, all the P7 pupils will wear the P7 hoodies. P6 pupils will continue to wear the P1-6 uniform.

General

How likely is it that the class structure will need to be reorganised again for the 2023/2024 session and beyond?

This depends on the number of children joining and leaving the school over the course of the year and so it is unlikely we would know this until March or April 2023.

I have further questions. How can I find out more?

As highlighted above classes will be organised (following feedback from pupils) by the children's current class teachers with support from the school leadership team. There is no right to appeal however if you have a specific question or concern that is not answered in the FAQ's please complete the 'Form' survey using the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/8Axhyz3qPZ>