

Frequently Asked Questions

When are class groupings re-organised?

We re-organise class grouping as the children leave Reception and enter Year One in order to ensure they begin the year in an appropriate grouping based on their experience and performance in EYFS. Unless situations arise which result in the Headteacher deeming it is necessary to change these, the Year One groupings remain the same as the children progress through their primary education.

When do we find out about whether our child's class is being reorganised?

When a class re-organisation has been decided upon, parents and children are informed when the class announcements are made at the end of term in order to promote a smooth transition and minimise any potential anxiety. [This also provides the school with time to finalise staffing and recruitment for the next academic year rather than communication information with potential change nearer the time.](#)

What is the maximum class size?

As per the government website, there is no legal limit to class size for health and safety reasons. A maximum class size for children aged between 5 and 7 was previously brought in for maintained schools. For all other age groups an upper limit does not exist.

How will the new team groups be decided?

In keeping with our school ethos, we always keep the best interests of the children at the forefront of our mind when reorganising classes. To ensure there is a balance of children from all groups, consideration is given to the following:

- **Children who speak English as an Additional Language.** *(Children within the year group should be assessed as 1—new to English, 2— developing English language or 3— fluent in English.)*
- **Children with Special, Educational Needs or Disabilities.** *(The level of need should be considered e.g. SEN concern, Support Plan or EHCP. Please also consider how many children who receive a high level of support at the Support Plan stage.)*
- **Gender.**
- **Attainment.** *(A balance of children working Above, At, Towards, Below and Well-below Age Related Expectations. Within each category their will be different needs and abilities that must be considered and taken into account.)*
- **Progress.** *(A balance of children who have typically made accelerated, expected or below expected progress. Please look at this across the past few years where relevant. This should also include consideration of previous statutory data e.g. EYFS Profile and KS1 data, are children still on track?)*
- **Consideration of class dynamics.** *(This should include consideration of individual and group behaviours, emotional well-being, mental health awareness, parental involvement and any other factor that impact. In EYFS, levels of involvement and well-being will also be considered.)*
- **Term of birth.** *(A balance of children born in the autumn, spring and summer.)*
- **Pupil Premium**—including children who are eligible for free school meals and 'Ever Six' children *(who are not currently eligible for free school meals but have been in the past six years).*
- **Vulnerable or looked after children** - including those who have social services involvement.

How will the school support children who find change difficult?

As we do at any transition point, there is a range of different strategies and resources that the school will use to support individual children. This will be on a child by child basis.

How will the school ensure my child is not affected by mixing up the classes?

By combining the current classes, the children are more likely to be with a range of children they are familiar and friendly with. Current staff will be involved in ensuring that all children's emotional and learning needs are met.

How will behaviour be affected by a larger class size?

Behaviour in and around the school is considered a strength by both school staff and our Local Authority advisors. We do not foresee any changes to this within the new structure.

Will the classes get any bigger?

Hillcross made the decision to move to two forms of entry with full local authority support in 2017. Three form classes have been combined into two forms of entry every year since then, where it has been feasible. It is necessary and feasible now for years 4, 5 and 6 to align with the rest of the school. The local authority continues to be aware and supportive of the current class changes.

In agreement with the Local Authority, no new children will be admitted to the school in these year groups. This means that the current number of children on roll will remain as it stands, or reduce if families move on.

For the future, we have reduced our Published Admission Number for these year groups to 60. Should numbers on roll drop below this level for any reason, places will become available up to a maximum number of 60.