

Scoil Tighearnach Naofa,

Cullohill.

Class Allocation policy/Multigrade Classes

Introduction

This policy was the product of whole staff collaboration.

Background and Rationale

Bearing in mind best educational practice, it is the policy of Scoil Tíghearnach Naofa in so far as is practicable, to maintain smaller numbers in classes. Consequently split class divisions may be necessary. However it is our policy to keep split classes to a minimum for practical and organizational reasons.

Aims and Objectives of this policy:

- To provide a framework for the splitting of classes
- To outline the criteria for placing children in particular mixed class groups

Framework for the splitting of classes

When it comes to the issue of the organization of and allocation of classes for teaching purposes, the duties of the Principal of the school are clearly and unequivocally stated in DES Circular 16/73.

"In consultation with the staff, the Principal shall decide on the organization of the pupils for teaching purposes".

"The Principal shall arrange a fair distribution of teaching duties among staff, taking in to account the needs of the pupils and the abilities, experience, personality and preferences of each teacher".

At the time of planning the classes for the coming year, the Principal in collaboration with teachers will look at the overall numbers in each year group and the number of teachers available to teach them. The **Principal** will then decide how best to organize classes with a view to providing the **best** educational opportunities for all children.

Criteria for splitting classes:

- Teacher input
- Children's age
- Maturity and gender balance
- Alphabetical
- Classroom accommodation
- Fluctuating enrolment

In the event that a class has to be split for a second/third time alternative criteria to previously employed may apply.

N.B While we realise that it is not the ideal situation to separate classes please be assured that the children will follow the same curriculum, use the same learning materials, and have the same opportunities.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed regularly.

Signed: _____ Príomhoide

Date: -----