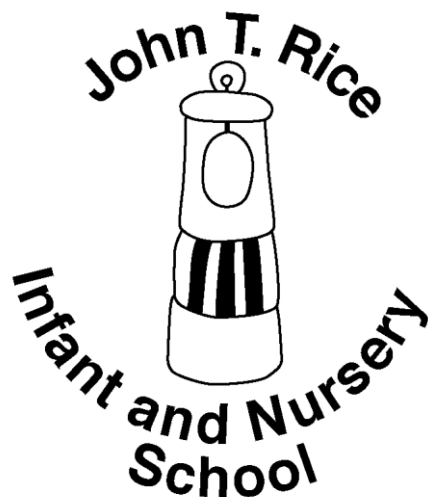


# John T. Rice Infant and Nursery School

## Mixed Year Group Classes Policy



## **Mixed Year Group Classes Policy**

### **Introduction and Philosophy**

This policy stands as a description of practice at John T. Rice Infant and Nursery School. It is a working document, which generates and informs good practice throughout the whole school.

It is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies that we follow in order to build good practice. At John T. Rice Infant and Nursery School we have high expectations of children's work and celebrate children's achievement through response, fostering self-esteem and confidence.

At John T. Rice we feel it is vital that a child's work, behaviour and actions are responded to in a positive manner, in order to help each child reach their full potential. We build a child's self esteem and confidence and help them to acknowledge their own successes and targets.

### **Aims**

- To create a positive learning environment in which children are proud to "own" their work.
- To encourage children to take pride in their work, behaviour and actions.
- To create consistent practice and attitudes when responding to children.
- To ensure children's learning is moved forward through the verbal and written responses we give.

### **Rationale**

As the number admitted to each year group each year is 50 and class sizes have a limit of 30, this makes it necessary to have mixed year group classes.

Our structure is as follows: -

- 1 Nursery Class (F1)
- 1 F2 class
- 1 F2 and Yr1 class
- 1 Yr1 class
- 1 Yr1 and Yr2 class
- 1 Yr2 class

### **Principles and Processes for Organising Mixed Age Classes**

- The arrangements for class structure are based on the professional judgements of class teachers and the Senior Leadership Team.
- Staff will always consider what is in the best interests of individual pupils and classes as a whole when making decisions. Children write a list of 2/3 friends to ensure that they have at least one of those in their new class.
- Arrangements will be made, where possible, to ensure all pupils have opportunities to socially interact with others in their year group. For example, break times, lunch times and clubs.

- There will be occasions where the structure of the curriculum will be organised into mixed age groupings for some lessons. For example, phonics lessons.
- Together with this, there are lessons where mixed year group classes are either split to ensure the correct coverage or remain together as some subjects are taught on a 2 year rolling programme.

*NB: for further clarification of this, please refer to our school website, curriculum section.*

- There may also be other curriculum areas and enrichment events, where greater numbers of pupils can be accommodated, and year groups can work together.
- The decision of the Headteacher is final. Pupils will not be moved once new classes have been set.

### **How the Classes are Organised**

Staff spend a great deal of time organising mixed age classes and will consider the following information:

- Protected Characteristics – create a balance of the number of pupils in each class.
- Ability – as far as possible, a mix of abilities will be in each class.
- Social - staff will make a professional decision about where a pupil should be placed for educational, social and emotional reasons.
- Other specific needs.
- Staff speaking with children and understanding who they are friends with and who they will work best with.

Staff base the final decisions on what is best for all pupils educationally, socially and emotionally.

### **How the Curriculum is Planned**

The curriculum is planned so that all pupils have the same experience and access:

- Maths – this is planned weekly within each phase (Early Years, Years 1 and 2) and is adapted accordingly for the needs of pupils within each class. In mixed classes it is ensured that the children are taught the correct objective in maths and these are progressively planned (more details on the curriculum page of our school website). There are normally two adults in the mixed age classes.
- English-this is planned within a two-year rolling programme so that children focus on different texts and write for different purposes. It is adapted accordingly for the needs of pupils within each class.
- All other subjects are planned within a two-year rolling programme (Cycle A and Cycle B) which is also adapted according to individual, or class needs. It also means that pupils do not repeat any learning.

### **Working Together with Parents and Carers**

- During “Meet the Teacher” meetings and parent tours, mixed age classes are clearly explained.
- A copy of this policy is on the website for all parents/carers to access.

### **Complaints Procedures**

- Initially, any concerns should be shared with Class Teachers, Senior Leadership Team or the Headteacher who will be able to reassure parents/carers about their child's allocated class. The organisation of classes is carefully considered to enhance the best chances of educational success for all pupils at school. The motivation when organising classes is to protect the academic, social and emotional interests of the whole school, making the best decision in the interests of all pupils, not one pupil or one year group.
- The Head teacher & Senior leadership team, have a responsibility for the day-to-day management of the school. If there are extreme and exceptional circumstances regarding a pupil, on rare occasions, the governing body may consider an individual case.
- If a parent feels that the school has not adhered to the Mixed Year Group Classes Policy they can raise this in the first instance with the staff at school and if still not satisfied, they should raise their concerns through the Complaints Policy available from school or on the school website.

At John T. Rice Infant School, we are aware of the need for equality of access for all children. Our staff believe strongly in creating equal opportunities for all children and work to this aim. We introduce and build upon the children's awareness of equal opportunities including the development of respect and understanding of multi-cultural, gender and S.E.N issues.

**This policy has been agreed by the Governing Body in Autumn 2025 and will be reviewed again in Spring 2028.**

