



NEWTON
COLLEGE

PART OF  ISP SCHOOLS

Whole School Class Mixing

2023-2024

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Next update: July 2024

RATIONALE:

At Newton College, we believe it is important to review our classes in Primary and Secondary every two years from Year 2 to Year 10, in order:

- to provide opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers
- to enable greater social interaction between children as they move through the school
- to ensure that the classes remain balanced academically.
- to promote a greater sense of community as a four/ five form entry school

ORGANISATION:

The classes will be mixed in Primary at the end of Key Stage 1 – Year 2, end of lower Key Stage 2 – Year 4, the end of upper Key Stage 2 – Year 6. In Secondary, at the end of each year group.

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of all the class teachers and the specialists who work with the children.
- We will always consider what is in the best interests of individual children and classes as a whole when making decisions.
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes.

CRITERIA FOR CLASS MIXING:

PRIMARY:

Classes are mixed to achieve a good balance according to the following criteria:

- Ability levels
- Range of educational, social and personal needs
- Friendships*

*Class teachers and specialists observe the children's friendships at work and play.

- Year 6 - Year 7 transition will also be based on students language choice.

French and German are offered as Language Acquisition (LA) classes at Newton College. Language Acquisition subjects are not appropriate for students who speak French or German at home, have significant contact with a relative who speaks that language, or who have previously attended school in a country where that language is spoken. A language profile will be created for each student and the school will make a decision about what is the best option for the student so that we can choose the most academically rigorous option for the student. The school's decision is final.

SECONDARY (Years 7- 11):

RATIONALE:

To effectively mix classes, it is important to consider several factors. Firstly, it is essential to consider whether students have selected French or German as their language of choice. This will ensure that students are placed in classes that align with their language preferences.

Secondly, it is important to consider students' individual pedagogical needs. This includes taking into account their learning style, strengths, and weaknesses. By doing so, educators can create a more personalised learning experience for each student.

Thirdly, the dynamics of the class should be taken into account. This includes considering the personalities and behaviours of students to ensure that classes are balanced (and also balanced in numbers) and harmonious this can lead to more individualised attention from the teacher and a more personalised learning experience. This can result in better academic performance and increased engagement among students.

Lastly, friendship selections can also be considered when mixing classes. While this is not the primary factor, it can help to create a comfortable and supportive learning environment for students.

It is crucial that our teacher claustro take the decisions when mixing classes as this practice promotes diversity, social skills development, and enhances the learning experience for all students. Our teachers are with our students for many hours a week and can observe them and see what is best for each individual child.

To summarise, when mixing classes, the order of importance should be based on language selection, individual pedagogical needs, class dynamics, and friendship selections. By considering all of these factors, we can create a positive and effective learning experience for all students.

For Year 10 to Year 11

- Year 10 to Year 11 (end of the first educational cycle of Secondary into the second educational cycle- Upper Key Stage 4.), the class mixing is based on their optativas.

How do we mix students in Secondary?

We first review our timetabling needs and assess how many classes of French and German we need. Sometimes we need full classes of French or German and then mixed classes of the languages (we also do this for the optativas in Year 11).

We then review the list of students and start to group them into the classes based on their language choices. After that, we review the lists and ensure we have a balance based on pedagogical needs of each student (a variety of levels for example) and then look at the dynamics of the class, what behaviours could be present, do they work well in teams etc. Finally, when it comes to ensuring the comfort and success of our students, we take great care in placing them with a classmate they are familiar with or work well alongside. This decision is made by the claustro, who has the most intimate knowledge of our students. We may take into account their friendship choices, or rely on our professional teaching

judgement after having taught the children for a year or more. Rest assured that we prioritise the well-being and academic progress of each and every student in our care.

REVIEW:

The Policy will be reviewed annually and shared with the PTA.

The Head of Stage and Senior Leadership Team will review the process and criteria for each year's class mixing arrangements.

From time to time, classes in the Early Years Foundation Stage may be mixed, in order to meet changing ratio requirements following best practice.

The school reserves the right to make any additional internal changes in classes, should it be beneficial for the child or children in the class.

The teachers and Head of Stage have the final decision when mixing classes.

New class lists will be published in September for the new academic year.