

Mixing classes FAQ

As a default, classes are not mixed. We appreciate that some parents may prefer classes to be mixed and so we have put together some information on the reasons behind this.

Why are classes not being mixed?

Wentworth has now completed its expansion to have 3 classes in each year group. Historically we have had to mix classes due to uneven numbers in each year group – this is no longer necessary. As a school we feel it is important that children have the opportunity to bond with a group as they move through the school. As friendship issues arise in a class, we wish for children to work through these with their peers to develop important social skills. Additionally, for many children, the process of having to deal with a wholesale change to their year group can be a daunting and upsetting one.

Will this apply to all year groups?

Classes are likely to be mixed after Foundation Stage. This is because children are placed before they join the school. Following their first year with us, staff are able to make changes to ensure that these classes are balanced for the rest of the school. If we find that there is an imbalance in another class, we will consider whether mixing the classes is in the best interest of **all** children. Imbalances can occur due to pupil mobility, changes in behaviours, identification of special needs as well as other factors.

Will my child still be in a class with their friends?

When children are mixed after foundation stage we will consider friendship groups. Teachers will ask the children who their friends are and also use their knowledge of the children's social groups. 90 children will be split across three classes, which means that large groups will remain together.

Are children grouped by ability?

We aim to put together a good balance of abilities within each class, so that all classes are taught in mixed ability groups. We also consider special educational needs, additional staffing and behavioural needs.

Have you considered the benefits of mixing classes each year?

In our discussions, we have considered how widening friendship groups and the development of resilience may be positives. We also appreciate that it may resolve some friendship issues in the short term. We reserve the right to mix classes at the end of a year if we believe it is in the best interest of all of the children.