

From mountain to sea

Aberdeenshire Parent Factsheet

Composite Classes

What is a composite class?

- A composite class is composed of groups of pupils from more than one year in the primary school.

Why do we form composite classes?

- Schools are staffed according to national agreed staffing standards based on the total number of pupils within the school.
- A composite class will never exceed 25 pupils as opposed to maximum class sizes which are 25 for P1, 30 for P2 and P3 and 33 for P4-7. When numbers are very small or slightly higher in any year group, composite classes may be formed.
- In order to enhance learning and teaching throughout the school the Head Teacher must make the best use of the available staff, resources and accommodation. This could also lead to the formation of composite classes.

How do we form composite classes?

The educational, social and emotional needs of children. The range of criteria to be considered include the following:

- Additional support needs
- Working groups (i.e. groups of children who are together for the greatest part of their curricular experience)
- Social groups
- Levels of attainment and achievement
- Pupils' dates of birth
- Particular family circumstances
- Gender balance
- Distribution of pupils across year groups in a particular class (only when possible within teacher staffing entitlement)

It is important to note though that your child is not being kept back by being in a composite class.



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Staff make sure that each and every child will progress through learning experiences in line with their personal levels of attainment and achievement.

When will a composite class be formed?

Composite classes will be formed towards the end of an academic year in preparation for the following academic year i.e. May/June for August.

When will your child be in a composite class?

At any time during his/her primary school career. However, only in exceptional circumstances will a composite class be formed after the start of the school year, e.g. if there is a significant increase or decrease in the school roll.

How are pupils taught?

All schools organise their lessons based on national guidance. The programmes for learning and teaching ensure balanced, coherent progress across all stages and subject areas.

Learning and teaching is based on a variety of class and group teaching methods. Opportunities are also provided for independent learning and personal research.

Composite classes will not affect your child's education since every pupil is taught according to their individual needs.

When and how will you be informed?

The Head Teacher will contact you in the summer term to inform you of class details for the coming year.

If you wish more information about composite classes please do not hesitate to contact the Head Teacher.