**Geashill National School**

**Policy on Splitting Classes**

# Introduction

This policy was the product of whole-staff collaboration.

# Rationale

# Bearing in mind best educational practice, it is the policy of Geashill National School in so far as is practicable, to maintain smaller numbers in junior classes. Consequently split class divisions may be necessary. However it is our policy to keep split classes to a minimum for practical and organisational 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
* To set out the supports which may be used to ensure the best learning outcomes for all children in mixed classes

### Framework for the splitting of classes

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. He will then decide how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities for all children.

### Criteria on which Children are selected to be placed in mixed or straight classes

At present the main criterion used is date of birth from oldest to youngest. The older group will share a classroom with the more senior class while the younger group will share a classroom with the more junior class. For example, if 5th Class is being split the older group will share with 6th Class while the younger group shares with 4th Class. From time to time other criteria may be used with individual pupils e.g. maturity, friendships, gender balance etc. so as not to upset the dynamic of classes involved. Parents of children involved will be contacted and the situation will be explained.

### Supports for children and teachers in mixed classes

* Teachers will work in close collaboration to ensure that curriculum objectives are being met at the appropriate class level.
* Every effort will be made to provide opportunities for the split class to work together in certain areas throughout the year.

### Review

This policy was developed in 2013 and has been reviewed in April 2018.