

## Class Organisation – September 2021

Legislation limits infant (KS1) and Early Years classes to 30 children except in very specific circumstances. In KS2 the governors keep to this number following accepted guidance.

In September 2022, due to the decrease in childbirth numbers in the local population, we will officially become a 1 form entry school with a maximum of 30 pupils admitted to Early Years each year. This will not affect any of our present children.

At present we are, however, a 1½ form entry school which means we enrol a maximum of 45 children each year. Obviously, they cannot be placed entirely in one class. Additionally, two classes for each cohort would be financially impossible. Thus, schools like St Joseph's make arrangements which accommodate all via the use of mixed age classes.

Underpinning all we do, we are very much aware that each child is a gift from God and has great value regardless of ability. Each and every child is unique and blessed and we are blessed by their presence. This is not rhetoric but forms the basis of all our curriculum plans as it is a founding principle in Catholic Education. We work very hard at building up each child's self-esteem and make it clear frequently that 'put downs' are not acceptable anywhere. This is especially important when children are grouped by academic ability. A child, very capable at writing, is no better *per se* than a child who struggles. They are just better at that skill. Therefore, our classes are grouped randomly, apart from the friendship considerations we took into account a few years ago when we arranged our classes according to the present manner.

Cohorts of children in Years 2 – 6 have already been sorted into 3 groups – S, J or P – as stated previously. These allow us to maintain a level of consistency for the children whilst making class groupings fair.

Year 3, you will remember had to be split into two groups for 2019/20 as there were only 25 children in the 2019/20 year 1 cohort. This will happen again for this cohort when they move to year 4 – 43 children in that cohort and 25 in the year 3 cohort.

The EY and Year 1 classes are yet to be sorted into the three groups. For this we will need the help of EY and Y1 parents. On the return slip attached, please list FIVE friends who you think your child will want to remain with for their future classes. When we sort the groups out, we will ensure that your child has at least one child from that list and the group members will stay together throughout their time at St Joseph's.

Consequently, for the 2021/22 academic year, the classes will be arranged thus:

Early Years	1 Reception class (Mrs Bancroft)
KS1	3 classes – Y1 (Mrs Tyerman), Y1/2 (Mrs Robbins), Y2 (Mrs Daly)
LKS2	3 classes – Y3 (Mrs Standen) and two Y4 classes (Mr McQuaide and Mr Williams)
UKS2	3 classes – three mixed Y5/6 classes (Mrs Riches, Mrs Tomlinson, Mrs Ford/Miss Halliday)

## **Cohort journeys through school**

### **Present Reception and Y1s**

There are 35 pupils in Reception this year (2020/21) and 42 pupils in Year 1, so these will be split into 3 classes for 2021/22 – Y1, Y1/2 and Y2. Each cohort will be sorted into 3 groups – s, j and p, so that some friendship groups can be maintained. These 3 groupings however, will have to be changed as at times they will be affected by the smaller cohort (less than 30 pupils) behind them.

*(For parents of children in Reception and Year 1, please see the letter sent separately.)*

### **Present Y2s**

As there are only 25 pupils in Year 2 and have remained so since Reception, there is no need to split the class and they will remain in one class for the duration of their time at St Joseph's.

### **Present Y3s**

As next year's Y3 class will only have 25 pupils, the present Y3 pupils will go again into 2 classes in the mixes they had in Year 2.

### **Present Y4s**

Pupils in Y4 currently will go with their s, j, or p group into mixed Y5/6 classes.

### **Present Y5s**

The present Y5 children will be joined by children from the present Y4 cohort in three mixed Y5/6 classes.

We believe the grouping of children in this way is needed to best address their academic and pastoral needs. We would ask parents to support us in this, acting in a truly Christian way and reinforcing the uniqueness and dignity of each child.