



Mixed-Aged Classes at St. Teresa's

St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Context

The organisation of mixed age classes has historically taken place at St. Teresa's due to the slightly larger in-take which was 38 but increased to 40 pupils; reflecting the demand for school places within our parish.

	Classes		
Infants Classes	Reception	Reception/ Year 1	
	Year 1/ Year 2	Year 2	
Juniors Classes	Year 3	Year 3/ Year 4	Year 4
	Year 5	Year 5/ Year 6	Year 6

Brief description

Due to the slightly larger in-take number, pupils are taught in mixed-age classes to allow the school to deliver the best educational outcomes in the most efficient way. Seven age groups, ranging from Reception to Year 6 are divided into ten classes, shown in the table above. Pupils at St. Teresa's are exposed to a wide range of benefits that come with being taught in mixed age classes.

Socially, pupils enjoy being taught in mixed age groups and gain a great deal from learning with one another across the key stage. Pupils develop a sense of familiarity with their class peers and learn to mix with a wide range of age groups from a young age.

Mixed-age teaching requires a high level of flexibility and organisation in lesson planning to ensure that teaching caters for both age groups and all abilities within the class. Teachers at St. Teresa's are very experienced and highly skilled in working with this model.

How are the children organised into the mixed –aged classes?

We organise the children into the classes according to;

- ⇒ birth date
- ⇒ gender (maintain a balance of boys and girls within each class)
- ⇒ exceptional circumstances— i.e. special educational needs/ siblings.

Mixed Age Classes

Reception and Year 1 Class

The class teacher will work closely with the teachers from the neighbouring classrooms to ensure that there is consistency across the Reception cohort and the Year 1 cohort.

The Reception children usually share provision within both classrooms. In addition, they will also use the Sunshine Room and the outdoors. This will provide the children with regular times to play and engage with others.

The Year 1 pupils will complete activities within their own classroom. During the Autumn/Spring term, the teachers may decide to stream the Year 1 classes for aspects of English and/or Maths, if felt appropriate. The class teacher will write to parents to confirm this nearer the time.

Year 1/ Year 2 Class

The class teacher will work closely with the teachers from the neighbouring classrooms to plan and monitor the consistency across the Year 1 and Year 2 cohorts. Teachers will plan creative days for the children to work with their friends in different classes, encouraging them to strengthen friendships with a range of different children.

The teachers will work collaboratively to plan topics for each half term; detailed on each class webpage. Pupils across the key stage will focus on developing the same key skills. However, the content may vary slightly according to the interests of the pupils within each class. The teachers will meet on a weekly basis to plan together and respond according to the needs of the pupils; providing support, further consolidation and/or challenge.

During the Autumn/Spring term, the teachers may decide to stream the Year 1 and Year 2 classes for aspects of English or/and Maths, if felt appropriate. The class teacher will write to parents to confirm this nearer the time.

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities for the children from the different classes to work together. These include;

- Streamed sessions
- The weekly carousel – Computing, Music and P.E
- Outdoor playtimes
- Golden time
- Phonic sessions
- Nativity rehearsals
- Trips outside school
- Online Safety sessions with visitors
- Fire Service visitors in schools
- Friendship weeks
- Science week

- Creative activities
- Assemblies
- RSHE

Year 3/ Year 4 Class

The teachers in the lower juniors will work closely to ensure there is consistency across the Year 3 and Year 4 cohorts. The teachers will work collaboratively to design Key Stage 2 topics for each half term, detailed on each class webpage. These include differentiated activities according to the National Curriculum objectives for each year group; ensuring that all statutory skills are covered.

The children will be taught the same English units across the LKS2 department. These will include differentiated activities according to the National Curriculum objectives for each year group; ensuring all statutory skills are covered. Mathematics will be taught using White Rose Maths and the objectives will be specific to each Year group.

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities for the children from the different classes to work together. These include;

- Daily playtime and lunch times
- Swimming with their year group
- Streamed sessions linked to aspects of Guided Reading and Mathematics
- Trip days
- Golden time
- Creative days
- Friendship week
- Science week
- Christmas Carol Service
- World Book Day
- RSHE

Year 5/ Year 6 Class

The teachers in the upper juniors will work closely to ensure there is consistency across the Year 5 and Year 6 cohorts. The teachers will work collaboratively to plan upper KS2 topics for each half term; detailed on each class webpage. This means that the same units of work will be covered each week across the upper juniors.

The children will be taught the same English units across the UKS2 department. These will include differentiated activities according to the National Curriculum objectives for each year group; ensuring that all statutory skills are covered. Mathematics will be taught using White Rose Maths and the objectives will be specific to each Year group.

The children will remain in their own classes for English in Upper Key Stage 2. The children will be set by ability for Mathematics. The teachers will meet on a weekly basis to plan together. Teachers will adapt sessions to meet the needs of the pupils; providing support, further consolidation and/or challenge.

The teachers will prepare all Year 6 pupils for SATs in various different ways. This will include;

- Structuring the curriculum to cover all objectives in readiness for the SATs
- Additional booster sessions for identified groups of pupils
- Use of past papers to identify gaps in learning and to develop question technique
- Developing reading stamina using Reading Plus
- Weekly SPaG and arithmetic lessons and assessments
- Ample writing opportunities throughout the curriculum
- Ensuring the pupils do not feel overwhelmed using additional well-being sessions.

Throughout the year, there will be many opportunities for the children from the different classes to work together. These include;

- Swimming
- Collective worships
- Creative and Science opportunities
- Y5/6 Play
- Celebration events
- All Hallows' Days
- Trips/Residential
- RSHE
- World Book Day
- Golden Time
- Faith in Action (Year 6)

When organising the classes, we look closely at the age and gender of the pupils to try to achieve a balance between the amount of boys and girls within each class.