



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

www.clacks.gov.uk

Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann

Class Organisation in Clackmannanshire

Information for Parents and Carers



Introduction

Every year the number of teachers allocated to our primary schools has to be calculated. Teacher allocation is determined by the total number of children in the school against an agreed formula.

Each school is then provided with their total teacher allocation.



The maximum number of children per class is determined by Scottish Government as:

P1	P2 and P3	P4, P5, P6 and P7	Composite Class
25	30	33	25

A composite class is one which includes children from more than one year group. The total number of children in a composite class must not exceed 25. It is the responsibility of the headteacher to organise classes and deploy staff.

Principles of Class Organisation

The curriculum is guided in Scotland by Curriculum for Excellence. Progress through the curriculum is determined by each child's stage of development, not by his/her class.

Curriculum for Excellence is designed to ensure that children's individual needs are met and that their progression is tracked and closely monitored.

Children in all classes, whether composite or not, will have a range of ability, maturity, personal and social needs. All children are taught at the level they need to make progress best suited to individual needs. In all classes, all children will have the right opportunities to allow them to reach their full potential.

Teachers use a variety of approaches to learning in their classes. It is expected that children should be actively engaged whether learning takes place in groups or as individuals.

Class teachers meet with headteachers several times a year to discuss each child's progress and to identify strategies for taking forward learning at an appropriate pace.

This ensures knowledge and skills are learned according to individuals' needs, abilities and interests.

Most primary schools in Clackmannanshire have composite class arrangements. Composite classes allow schools to accommodate changing numbers of children, whilst ensuring that all children are able to attend their catchment primary school.

In smaller schools, most or all classes will be composite classes. Parents should be reassured that being in a composite class is a normal part of their child's education. In the council's smallest schools, composite classes, with up to four year stages in one class, are the norm. Children in these schools make the same progress as those in larger schools.

Education Scotland (HMIE) do not view composite classes as detrimental to children's Education when careful consideration is given to the makeup of the class.



Forming a Composite Class

The Scottish Government acknowledges composite classes as a method of class organisation. In Scotland, a national agreement dictates that composite class size should not exceed 25 children.

The allocation of children to a composite class should be for sound educational reasons based on the headteacher's professional knowledge of the school and individual pupils. Criteria which should be considered includes: age; ability; friendship groups; peer group relationships; maintenance of a reasonable balance between genders; and educational history of the class.

Re-organisation of classes during the school session should be avoided. The school's class structure should be designed to minimise and avoid the likelihood of this.

Parents/carers will be informed of the school's class organisation in June. Reasons behind the formation of composite classes will also be shared at this time.

Parents/carers can discuss any concerns they may have in relation to their child's new class at this time. However, the final class organisation decision lies with the Headteacher.

For more information on schools in Clackmannanshire and key education policies, please check out the Clackmannanshire Council website at www.clacks.gov.uk



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