



CLASS PLACEMENTS 2018

Dear Parents

The staff and I are beginning to make decisions regarding 2018 school organisation and class placements.

Factors we take into account when creating **balanced classes** are: students' academic level, behaviour, attitude and special needs issues. Forming balanced classes is a priority. The main consideration is the input from the students' current teachers as they know students' learning needs best.

TEACHER INPUT

Making balanced classes, considering all student needs, is the professional role of the teachers. Teachers don't pick students/families who they would like in their classes.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY, ROLE AND INPUT

Parent input will only be considered in **exceptional circumstances**.

A simple preference for a certain teacher is not considered exceptional circumstances.

- Letters to or lobbying of teachers will not be considered.
- Asking your child for their preferred teacher is not an exceptional circumstance.
- Neither is the placement of a child in a class with their current friends.
- Meeting new and different people and encountering different situations is a fact of life and it is our role, as parents and teachers, to **support our children through change** rather than shield them from it.

HOW PARENTS SUBMIT EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- If you believe that such circumstances apply to your child, a letter must be submitted to me before **13 October 2017** which specifically indicates the special circumstances. Input received after this time cannot be considered.
- Unsubstantiated requests will not be considered.
- We read all letters; however, we will not be conducting interviews nor formally replying to them. We will contact you if we need more information or need to discuss the situation.

COMPOSITE (SPLIT) CLASSES

Due to enrolments, our school will always have a number of composite classes where there are two year levels in one classroom. This is the case in most government schools.

- At some stage, it is highly likely that all students will be in a composite class.
- It is not practical for parents to simply say they don't want their child in a composite class.
- Our priority is always upon **quality teaching and learning** rather than the year level structure of the class. All quality classroom programs allow children to **thrive and develop at a level appropriate to them**.

TEACHER PLACEMENTS

Next year, and for the future, we are looking at changing teachers' placements/year levels. Consequently, preferences for specific teachers are irrelevant because teacher placements are a long way from being made. Parents should focus on any exceptional circumstances.

In conclusion, I trust the teachers and ask you to trust that your child's class placement has been given much consideration.

Yours sincerely

Ian Hastings
PRINCIPAL
5 September 2017