

CLASS PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

Rationale

When placing students in classes, Walkerville Primary School will consider a range of information in order to form educationally and socially balanced classes. Classes will be formed to best meet the needs of the students within the constraints of the resources provided. Class structures, class compositions and the allocation of students to classes, are all developed through consultation with staff and the leadership team using Department for Education guidelines. This includes recommendations of maximum number of students in each class and meets commitments from the South Australian School Enterprise Agreement.

Outlined below is the process we use at Walkerville Primary School to place students in their respective classes for the start of the new year. Also included are answers to questions that families may have about class placement. Walkerville Primary School is committed to meeting the educational needs of all students. A great deal of thought, planning and time goes into placing children into classes each year.

Criteria that we use to make up class lists

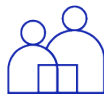
Factors influencing class structure are:

- the educational needs of the students
- the projected number of students in each year level
- gender ratios
- projected enrolments during the year based on past trends
- the number of teachers employed at the school
- resources and facilities

Factors which are considered in the placement of students include:

- learning needs
- behaviour
- gender
- learning and social networks
- social and emotional maturity
- family situations eg: twins, siblings

The leadership team and teaching staff will decide the placement of individual students. Parent input regarding their child's educational needs will be considered when it aligns with the placement criteria.



Process for placing students into classes

Based on the criteria listed, Walkerville Primary staff meet throughout Term 4 to establish classes for the following school year. During this process, changes and adjustments are made. Each change may trigger a chain reaction of other changes. Proposed class lists are then submitted to the leadership team for final ratification. Student class placements will be communicated to families in conjunction with Semester 2 Student Reports.

The successful implementation of these guidelines ensures smooth transition from year to year with the learning and wellbeing of every student in the school being paramount.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the school have some composite classes instead of having all straight year level classes?

As staffing is dependent upon the enrolment in each grade, composite classes occur. The class distribution will be considered on the basis of student numbers. The distribution of classes may change each year according to enrolment numbers in the school and the effects of different numbers in each class or year group.

Can I request a particular teacher, teaching “style” or approach for my child either in writing or through discussion with my child’s present teacher?

No, this is not part of the class placement process.

Can I provide information to support the informed placement of my child?

Yes, as long as the information aligns with the placement criteria stated.

Do teachers request certain student placements into their classes?

No, as teachers are not generally assigned to a class until after the class placement process. Teachers focus on class balance to ensure a successful year for all classes.

When I get my child’s class placement, can I request that it be changed?

The class placements are considered final. Changes to placements are very rare due to the fact they cause a chain reaction and impact on the class balance. We consider the learning and wellbeing of each individual during the placement process and parents must realise their child is part of a complex equation in school placements.

How can I help my child during this process?

Parents can help by supporting the informed decisions of the staff and ensuring all conversations with their children are positive and encouraging.

Last updated: October 2023
Review: October 2026