



## Policy on Regrouping Classes

### Introduction

In planning the Class Groups at all class levels for the coming school year a professional consultation process takes place among the teaching staff of The Harold School.

This Policy outlines the framework for regrouping of classes.

### Rationale

The teaching staff review the progress of their classes and how well the pupils' learning, skill development, participation in individual and group activities is going. In the interest of providing the best education for all students, it may from time to time be necessary to divide and combine class groups in order to maintain a balance and maximise the learning outcomes for pupils.

During the school year 2023/2024 there have been significant teacher recruitment challenges facing schools in the Dublin area. It may be necessary for our school to consider how class groupings are organised and to utilise existing teaching resources in those classes where there is a vacant position. The school management continues to endeavour to recruit additional teaching staff at all times.

### Aims and Objectives of this Policy

- To provide a framework for the redistribution of classes
- To outline the criteria on which children are selected to be placed in class groups

### Framework for the Regrouping of classes

In general :

Classes will be regrouped at least once in the Junior Cycle.

Classes will be regrouped at least once in the Senior Cycle.

It is important to note that at the time of planning the classes for the coming year, the Principal in consultation with the teaching staff will look at the overall balance in each year group and the number of pupils in the year group. The number of pupils in a year group, distribution of boys/girls, emotional, social, behavioural and additional needs may

have changed during a school year and this will inform all planning and consultation meetings. The Principal will decide in consultation with the teachers how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities & outcomes for all children. This is an ongoing process.

### **Criteria for placing children in particular class groups**

We group the children in such a way so as to maximise the learning outcomes for *each class*. When dividing a class into groups, to be placed in separate classes, there are certain criteria to be taken into consideration:

- The dynamics of the class must be considered. Emotional, behavioural, social factors and additional needs which affect the dynamic of the new class group should be taken into consideration when forming new groupings
- It is considered best to form mixed-ability groups
- Distribution of boys/girls in classes
- The number of pupils in a class group may change during the school year

In order to protect the privacy and dignity of each child no discussions around these criteria can be entered into by the school body. It will not be possible to go into greater detail on this point as it might cause an individual pupil or group of pupils to be identified.

The teachers of each class to be regrouped/redistributed are consulted on the above issues and much work goes into the preparatory stage of the arrangement. A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in the new groups. The process of forming new friendships is a life skill which is important to develop.

Where possible classes that have been regrouped reunite regularly to learn, collaborate & play together. The classes and pupils work together regularly to prepare assemblies, drama and musical performances, workshops/exhibitions, concerts/presentations. As much as is practicable the classes will play together on the playgrounds during breaks so they can maintain existing friendships as well as make new friends in the new group. This increases their circle of friends and their abilities to form new friendships.

### **Enrolment of new children into regrouped classes**

Due regard must be given to the school's enrolment policy, and the terms of Section 29 of the Education Act.

### **The allocation of teachers to mixed classes**

It is the duty of the Principal as per Circular 16/73 to assign teaching duties.

**Ratified by the Board of Management**

**Chairperson:** Declan Murray Date: September 2023

**Original signed copy available in the School Office**