



North Dublin Muslim National School

Ratoath Road

Dublin 7

Division of Classes & Multigrade Policy

June 2019

Introductory Statement

The North Dublin Muslim National School developed a Division of Classes & Multigrade Policy in 2018/2019 in consultation with staff, parents and Co-Managers.

Rationale

As the North Dublin Muslim National School continues to grow and develop, multigrade classes and the rearrangement of classes may be required in order to ensure that:

- The best possible education is provided for all pupils
- Department of Education and Skills guidelines on class size are adhered to
- Teaching resources are used to best effect.

Policy Aims

- To provide a framework for organising multigrade classes-e.g. Selection of Classes; selection of pupils and communication with staff and parents
- To outline the criteria on which children will be selected for such classes
- To set out the resources which may be made available to such class groups
- To allow for effective communication of the policy to staff and parents.

Assessing the Need for Multigrade Classes

- At the time of planning classes for the coming year, the Principal will consider the overall numbers of children in the school and the number of teachers available to the school as per the relevant staffing schedule.
- The principal will decide how best to organise classes with a view to providing the best educational opportunities for all pupils following consultation with staff.
- Where possible, multigrade classes will be created within the bands of the Primary School Curriculum.

Selection of Pupils for Multigrade Classes

Careful consideration will be given to the selection of pupils when classes are being reorganised for multigrade purposes. Where possible, a child who is in a multigrade class will not be selected for a multigrade class the following academic year. Parents should note that due to the growing nature of the school, pupils may be in a multigrade class several times over the course of their primary school education.

The following factors will also be considered when selecting pupils for a multigrade class:

- The effect of a child having a sibling, cousin, etc. in the same class
- Ensuring all children are enabled to be a part of a friendship group
- Considering how the needs of children with Special Educational Needs would be met within a given class
- Gender balance
- Academic balance
- Age balance
- Classroom accommodation
- Behaviour and maturity
- Whether the child was previously taught by the teacher to be assigned to the class

Teacher Allocation

Teachers will be assigned to teach multigrade classes in the manner outlined in the school's Class Allocation policy. While the needs of pupils will take precedence, due regard will be given to teacher skill, experience and preference.

Notification of Class Allocation

- Teachers will be informed of the class they are teaching in June of the previous academic year. More detail can be found in the school's Class Allocation policy.
- Parents will be informed what class their child will be in and who their teacher will be during the summer holidays, once any necessary teacher recruitment has taken place.

Supports in the Multigrade Setting

Where possible, the following supports will be given to multigrade classes:

- Additional in-class support for mathematics and English.
- Additional staffing for Religion and Arabic lessons.
- Opportunities to plan and collaborate with teachers teaching classes at the same level.

Ratification and Communication

The Division of Classes & Multigrade policy was ratified by the Co-Managers in 2018/2019. A copy of the ratified policy is available on the school website, the school's shared drive and from the school office upon request. This policy will be implemented from August 201. It will be reviewed in 2023, or sooner if deemed necessary.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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