

Fairisle Junior School Classroom Placement Protocol

Fairisle Junior School is a three-form entry school, with four classes in Year 5 for 2024-25.

We have a PAN (Published Admission Number) of 90 in each year group (120 in Year 5 for 2024-25).

When there are 90 children (or 120 children in Year 3 and Year 5) placed in each year group, we are **full**, and potential new admissions go on a waiting list. All admission procedures, including our policy, PAN and waiting list are handled on our behalf by Southampton City Council.

Once children have a place at Fairisle Junior, it is the school's decision which class they are placed in.

Coming from Fairisle Infant & Nursery into Year 3

We enjoy very close working ties with Fairisle Infant & Nursery School. We visit our partner infant school to ensure we have as much knowledge about the children before they start at the junior school.

When the classes are re-organised before the children start at our school, this is undertaken by the infant school class teachers working alongside members of our team. This is part of the social aspect of starting at the junior school. We listen very carefully to the advice of the infant school about which children are friends and which children get on well, and which children work together the best. Occasionally, the infant school might advise that "best friends" are not the best working partnership, and that is taken into account as well.

Parents sometimes make specific requests about class placements. However, it is the infant school teachers' advice which drives the decisions.

It is very unlikely that a child will be placed in a class without some of their infant school friends, but it is equally unlikely that they will be placed in a class with **all** of their infant school friends.

As our Year 3 classes work closely together, children have opportunities to work with new friends and partners very quickly, whilst maintaining their friendships from the infant school, and making new ones.

Once the classes are decided, changes are not made.

Moving from Year 3 through to Year 6

We usually try to keep the same classes once children are in Year 3, all the way through to Year 6. However, we may re-organise the classes if we feel that they have become socially unbalanced due to in-year leavers and admissions or if we feel it would be in the children's best educational interests.

If we mix classes, we generally ask the children to choose three or four friends who they would like to be in a class with, but we don't guarantee they will be in a class with all of those friends - some strong social friendships are not productive for work and progress.

If two teachers have shared a class for a year, we will try to move those children into a class with a single teacher for the following year, unless this is unavoidable.

We do not consider parents' requests to move individual children to either be with, or not be with, other children, or requests for a particular teacher.

Our outcomes

Our outcomes in the "SATs" at the end of Year 6 are all amongst the highest of any school in the city and in neighbouring Hampshire.

Our attendance is also among the highest of any primary school in the city.

We believe that the approach we take at all transition points contributes to this success, and we would expect parents to support our experience and professionalism for the benefit of their children.