

Stradbroke School Class Placement Policy



Each year the Principal, Personnel Advisory Committee and staff make decisions about the number and structures of classes for the upcoming year. The decision to place a student in a class is based on the staff's professional judgment of the educational needs of the student. All classes are made up of students of mixed learning abilities.

In making recommendations about class composition, teachers consider factors such as:

- learning needs
- gender balance
- year level balance
- social and emotional maturity
- students with educational and social needs
- social dynamics (which students to keep together and which to keep apart)
- friendship groups
- number of students per class
- information provided by service providers

Decisions are made with the view to establishing balanced and equitable class groups that will potentially work well together.

Parent Information

Parents are able to write a short letter to the Principal if they have particular information about the specific needs of their child.

- Parent information will be considered along with factors considered by the teachers.
- Only information based on the educational criteria as listed above will be considered.
- A copy of the parent letter will be made available to the class teachers during the placement process.
- Requests for a specific teacher will not be considered.
- Due to possible variance in enrolment numbers it is probable there will be some composite classes. Requests for a student to be or not be in a composite class will not be considered.
- Where possible parent requests will be considered. It is important for parents to understand that not all requests can be met.

Staff recognise the importance of fostering and maintaining student friendships. Teachers also understand that it is equally as important for students to build the capacity to learn and socialise with a range of peers. Classroom teachers use a range of processes to ask students to nominate peers with whom they wish to be placed. Where possible students will be placed with at least one of their nominated peers. As it is extremely difficult for staff to deal with contradictory information from students and parents, it is preferable that parents do not write about friendship requests to us, unless there are serious issues.

When will students and parents know about class placements?

Class placement information will be sent home with students in the last week of term 4.

After that date student class placements will not be changed unless there are extenuating circumstances. Changes to class placement will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where staff and parent/caregivers provide relevant information that was not available prior to the process. Requests for any changes must be made in writing to the Principal.

Who makes the final decision?

Staff do their best to meet each student's needs. A considerable amount of time and effort is allocated to carefully place students into classes. At times it may not be in the student's best interest to be placed according to parent requests and we will discuss this with parents wherever possible.

It is the responsibility of the Principal to make the final decision on classes and placement of students.

(To be endorsed by GC and staff)