



Department of
Education



YANGEBUP PRIMARY CLASS PLACEMENT POLICY

Updated November 2025

Outlined below is the process we use at Yangebup Primary to place students in classes for the start of the year. Also included are answers to questions that parents may have about class placement. Staff at Yangebup Primary are committed to meeting the educational needs of all students. A great deal of thought, planning and time go into placing children into classes. Every effort will be made to place each child in a learning environment that is productive and successful.

RATIONALE

Yangebup Primary School creates its class structure based on the professional judgement of staff taking into account the students' academic, social and emotional needs.

GUIDELINES

- Factors influencing class structure are:
- the educational needs of the students;
- the projected number of students in each year level;
- the ratio of girls to boys;
- projected enrolments during the year based on past trends;
- the number of teachers employed at the school; and
- the constraints of resources and facilities.

Factors which are considered in the placement of students include:

- academic performance
- work habits eg. ability to work independently
- behaviour
- gender
- social network
- social maturity
- special needs
- family situations eg twins, siblings

PROCESS:

Staff meet mid fourth term to establish the classes for the following school year. Teachers of the current and past year levels make the decision about where to place those students for the following year.

Teachers ensure each new class has:

- a balance of academic ability

- gender balance
- socially balanced groups (students are not always put with best friends so new friendships can be formed)

Class placements are then approved by the principal. Parents may write to the principal to give information that the school should take into account in order to place their child. This must be based on their child's educational needs. Requests in relation to choice of teacher will not be considered as a placement factor.

COMMON QUESTIONS:

Why do we ask parents to leave class placement in the hands of the teaching staff?

As professional educators we strive to make the right choices taking into account all of the information we have about all students. Parents do know their children best, however teachers have all of the academic and social information about every child and can make sound judgements to meet the needs of every student.

Why does the school have some split grade classes?

Staffing is dependent on the enrolment numbers. Therefore split grade classes are often necessary to ensure that we have appropriate sized classes for each year level.

The practice of combining grades in one class is well supported by research and our beliefs about how children learn. That is, research shows us that students are not disadvantaged by being in a split grade class. The difference in academic ability and maturity can vary by about 5 years across a straight grade class and 5 or 6 in a split grade class. The added advantage of a split grade class is that students make friendships across grades.

Can I request my child to be placed with another child or not placed with another child?

Parents may request this but need to give clear reasons why this is necessary. It is important to consider that the school knows your child's friendships and that placing them without that particular friend may be so that your child expands their friendship base. We want children to be able to work and socialise with a variety of other children and build skills to make new friends.

In addition, sometimes we may get competing requests from parents where one parent wants their child to be in a class with a friend but the friend's parents have requested that they not be in the same class.

Friendships can change throughout primary school, students leave, more students arrive and so it is important for your child to develop friendship skills rather than always have the same friends.

When will I know my child's placement?

Classes for the following year will be displayed during the last week of school. Students will spend some time in their new classroom on the last day of the year to help them familiarise themselves with their new class. They will usually meet their new teacher unless the teacher won't be starting until following year.

What if my child or I am unhappy with my child's placement?

Class placements are considered final. Changing one student at the request of a parent can mean that many other changes also need to take place to continue to meet the needs of all of the other students. Parents need to understand that it is a complex balance that cannot just be solved by moving their child. Many other changes are likely to be needed in addition. Parents can talk to the principal or deputy principal about their concerns but changing a student placement would be rare. The principal or deputy and the classroom teacher will work with the parent to help students adjust to their new class.

If your child is unhappy with their placement, parents should help them to see the positives and help them to be resilient with disappointment.