



Student Placement Guidelines

Landsdale Gardens Primary School classes will be formed in such a way to best meet the educational needs of the students within the constraints of the resources provided. The school creates its classes based upon the professional judgements of staff with the aim of creating the best learning environment for each student to meet their educational needs, interests and circumstances. All teachers at Landsdale Gardens are outstanding and will provide a quality education for your child/ren.

Background

Class sizes in WA primary schools are set by government regulation as follows:

Year Level	Class Size
Kindy	20
Pre-primary	27
Kindy/Pre-primary Composite	20 (on a given day)
Pre-primary/Year 1 Composite	24
Years 1-3, including composite classes	24
Year 3/4 Composite	23
Years 4-6	32
Years 4-6 Composite	31

Criteria

Considerations influencing class structure are:

- 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
- the constraints of resources and facilities

Considerations influencing student placement are:

- classes are to be comparable with respect to academic performance, social development and classroom behaviour
- social maturity
- friendships – classes are set to enable both the integration of new students and provide opportunity for students to broaden their friendship group
- class placements in previous years
- Independent work ability of students
- special educational needs
- school psychologist's recommendations

Student Placement Process

The school leadership team determines structure options for the following year based upon anticipated enrolments, enrolment trends and the need for flexibility.

Staff members in each year level meet to determine the placement of their current students for the following year, taking into consideration the criteria outlined in this document.

During this process, changes and adjustments are made. Each change may trigger a chain reaction of other changes. It is acknowledged by all, that friendships are important. However, to ensure balanced classes as outlined above, friendship groups are not a primary determining factor in class placement.

Proposed class lists are submitted to the principal and school leadership team for ratification.



Student Placement Requests

We encourage parents to leave class placements in the hands of our teaching and school leadership staff. As professional educators we work hard to ensure all children are placed in classes that meet their needs and help them to achieve their full potential. Our teaching staff have knowledge of all the important factors that make up class placements, including academic performance, work habits, behaviour, social networks and special needs.

Please note that whilst requests will be considered, the school will make the final decision on student placements. The class placements are considered final. Changes to placements are rare due to the fact they often cause a chain reaction and impact on the class balance, which in turn is unfair to many students within the group.

Composite Classes

Composite classes have existed in WA schools since schools were established.

Schools aim to deliver a high-quality education whilst making efficient use of resources. A student-centred funding model is used in conjunction with class size guidelines. To support these objectives, schools must put in place a class organisational structure which may include composite classes.

Composite Class FAQs

1. What is a composite class?

Composite classes are where children from two or more-year levels are grouped together. They can be found in schools of all sizes. In small schools, multi-year composites are common. Where possible our school will try to have a minimum of 6 students in a year level within a composite class.

2. When will I be informed if my child is to be in a composite class?

The principal will inform you about your child/ren's class placement as soon as possible once the class organisation has been finalised. Normally this would take place a few days prior to the commencement of the new school year (end of January/early February). Circumstances, such as late enrolments may arise where the Principal will have to adjust the class organisation at short notice.

3. Will my child have a different learning experience in a composite class?

Traditionally, teachers have grouped students of similar ability for learning and teaching purposes within straight classes. Teachers have always been expected to organise learning in a way which meets the needs of individuals who have a range of ability levels within any one class.

4. If my child is placed in a composite class will this continue throughout their primary school education?

A child placed in any class will not necessarily progress through school with the same group of students. Class organisation is likely to change from year to year. This can result from a change in student numbers, or from the maximum class sizes that can be formed at different year levels.

5. If my child is placed in a composite class will there be opportunities for my child to continue to work and socialise with their friends?

Your child will continue to meet and interact with previous classmates at social times during the school day or during class times arranged by teachers. There may also be opportunities for children to work together on projects, camps, choir, sport and class events.

6. Can I refuse to have my child taught in a composite class?

The management of class organisation in schools is the responsibility of the principal. Our school staff consult regularly with parents regarding their child's progress. Where there are specific concerns about a child's learning or progress, we communicate with individual parents on a more frequent basis.

Ratified: 6th September 2023

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