



SAINT FINIAN'S NATIONAL
SCHOOL

Class and Classroom Allocation Policy



Policy on Class and Classroom Allocation

Introductory Statement:

This policy was formulated as a result of a collaborative approach between the Principal and Staff. It evolved over the years and was recently redrafted during an in-school development planning day.

Link to School Ethos:

Saint Finian's National School is committed to enabling children to grow and develop into confident, mature adults with high self-esteem. We also strive to ensure children maximise their academic and social potential. This policy is geared towards those aims through offering all children exposure to a variety of teaching methodologies and skills.

Rationale:

This policy ensures that teachers get the opportunity to expand their skills through teaching a range of different ages and topics. It also offers the teaching staff and children flexibility within the system and there is provision in the policy for children to have access to teachers with specific skills in particular subjects.

Aims and Objectives:

The policy also facilitates the allocation of rooms suitable to the needs of the children;

- To facilitate the smooth, efficient running of the school
- To enable the teaching staff to professionally develop themselves through exposure to different age groups and curricula
- To maximise the learning opportunities of the children through prudent class allocation which utilises to the optimum, the range of individual teaching skills within the staff

Policy Content

Class Allocation:

The allocation of teaching duties within the school is a matter for the Principal. However, it is the policy of the school to reach collective agreement and consensus when distributing teaching duties. The Principal facilitates this process in a fair and equitable way. *"The Principal is responsible for the creation, together with the Board, parents of students and the teachers, of a school environment which is supportive of learning among the students and which promotes the professional development of the teachers"*. (Education Act – Section 23)

- Saint Finian's National School has 12 mainstream classes and consequently there are no split classes. It is school policy to rotate classes every year. At the end of the year, all teaching staff completes a form in which they list the 3 classes they would like to be assigned to for the coming year in order of preference

- The Special Education Team has the option of returning to mainstream after 3 years, should they indicate such a preference. Alternatively, they may wish to remain in Special Education for a further 3 years. Should a mainstream teacher indicate a desire to join the Special Education Team, this wish may be facilitated if a Special Education Teacher has asked for a move in the opposite direction. If not, collective agreement is sought with options such as deferring a move for a year being put on the table. Courses completed in Special Education will also have a significant bearing on allocation
- The Principal will allocate classes according to the class preference form completed by the teaching staff. The Principal will also take other factors into account when making these decisions such as;
 - Experience
 - Contribution to overall school policy development in relation to teaching and learning
 - Range of classes already taught / not taught
 - Motivation
 - Personality
 - Domestic and social situations
 - Special talents
 - Opportunities for development such as Special Education, shared teaching etc.
- Some teachers may have larger classes than colleagues. This normally 'evens itself out' over a number of years, so that an equitable workload is achieved
- Class allocation relies heavily on compromise and consensus. If this is not possible to reach, the Principal will make an informed decision based on suitability, experience (whether a particular teacher has had the class before), special talents, courses taken and what is in the best interests of the children concerned. An interview is not held
- Class allocation is completed in May of every year. There is no special exemption for teachers in relation to First Communion and Confirmation classes. Special arrangements are put in place if a teacher's religious beliefs preclude preparing children for religious ceremonies.

Roles & Responsibilities:

All staff, under the guidance of the Principal participate in and contribute to the implementation of an effective and equitable class allocation policy. Grievances are dealt with at a Principal/teacher level and will only transfer to the Board if a compromise cannot be reached.

Success Criteria:

The school evaluates the success of the policy through;

- a) Participation of all staff in the policy
- b) Smooth hand over of classes
- c) Feedback from all staff
- d) Staff satisfaction
- e) Parental satisfaction

Timetable for Review:

A review will be conducted based on the success criteria outlined, or where consensus and compromise is not achieved.

Ratification and Implementation:

This policy was originally drafted in March 2018 and ratified in April 2018. This policy will be reviewed in five years.

References

Education Act 1998 – Sections 22 and 23

Circular 16/73

CPSMA - Board Members handbook p.234