

# How we choose classes for your child

A guide for parents explaining  
the many decisions we  
undertake to ensure your child  
is in the best class for them.

**July 2021**

# Mixed Classes

$\frac{1}{2}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{5}{6}$

At Roughwood, our pupil admission number (PAN) is 56 per Year Group and our total capacity is 336 pupils.

The government state that infant (KS1) class sizes cannot exceed 30 pupils but there isn't a limit in KS2. However, we believe that children learn best in smaller classes, so wherever possible we do try and keep class sizes as small as we can to facilitate accelerated learning. All of our classes at Roughwood this year are below 30.

Because of varied pupil numbers in year groups we sometimes need mixed year group classes.

This **does not** mean that your child is being kept behind. It is done to meet government guidelines and keep class sizes as low as possible to benefit your child.

# Differentiation (Adapting lessons to meet everyone's needs)

In every class, including mixed year group classes, the teacher plans to meet the needs of different groups of children and individual children. Children will still be exposed to age group objectives but these will be differentiated (adapted) to meet the needs of all children.

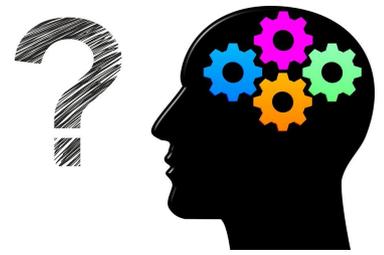
Topics and visits are adapted to make sure that no child is repeating learning and children are given opportunities to go on year group residentials, regardless of which class they are in.

We have had mixed age group classes for a number of years and although many people are apprehensive at first we have experience to prove that these are very successful and children often make accelerated progress.

Quote from a child previously in a mixed age class.

*“At the beginning I was sad because I wasn’t with my friends. A few months later I started to like the class and by the end I was sad to leave.”*

# How we choose classes



When considering where best to place children a number of discussions take place between current class teacher, Mrs Wheeler (SENDCO), Miss Whitworth (Pastoral Team) and Mr Williams (Head of School) to discuss every child's individual needs.

Academic attainment is only a small part of this discussion and we also consider children's social and emotional development, as well as friendships.

We understand that sometimes children may think that they are being separated from their friends but children are provided with many opportunities to work with their peers across the year groups, as well as taking all break times and lunchtimes together on the same yard.

## **Advantages**

- Opportunities to build new friendships
- Builds self confidence and self esteem
- Targeted and specific teaching
- Smaller class sizes
- Promotes independence