



Wombwell Park Street Primary School

Park Street, Wombwell, Barnsley. S73 0HS

Tel: 01226 752029

Email: parkstreet@ecmtrust.co.uk - Website: www.wombwellparkstreet.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G Foster-Wilson

Headteacher: Mrs C Lawson

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Longden

July 2020

RE: split classes at Wombwell Park Street Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to give you some clarity on information regarding class sizes at Wombwell Park Street Primary School. Each year, when class information is given to parents, we do have a few queries regarding classes and reasons for decisions. So, I thought it best to give all of you the information you need, so everyone is clear.

We have different admission numbers (this is the amount of children which the Local Authority say we can take) in specific year groups through school. This is because we had three new classrooms built on the end of the school, to cater for an increased admission number and therefore more children.

In 2020-21 the admission numbers in the various year groups are as follows:

Reception	45 children
Year 1	45 children
Year 2	45 children
Year 3	45 children
Year 4	50 children
Year 5	50 children
Year 6	34 children

EYFS and Key Stage 1:

The legal limit of children that any school can have in a Reception and key stage 1 classroom is 30.

Obviously, this presents us with a problem in that to have classes with pure year group children in them, we would have to have two Reception classes, two Year 1 classes and two Year 2 classes. However, the school building only allows us to have five classrooms, with the following year groups in:

- Classroom 1 – Reception children
- Classroom 2 – Reception / Year 1 children
- Classroom 3 – Year 1 children
- Classroom 4 – Year 2 children
- Classroom 5 – Year 2/3 children

To organise our school in any other way in Reception and key stage 1 is a physical impossibility and illegal.

Key Stage 2:

At the moment we have some pure key stage 2 classes because the admission number for their year group is 34 (or 50 and we have the capacity to split these in to two groups of 25). There is no legal limit on the amount of children that schools can have in a key stage 2 classroom. 34 can fit in to a single classroom, but 50 and 45 cannot, so have to be split.

We will continue to manage this system carefully as the children progress through school.

Wombwell Park Street Primary School is proud to be part of



Every Child Matters Academy Trust
Children at the heart

How do we make the choices as to which children go in to which class?

A team of staff, in every summer term, get together and discuss each child and where best to place them (in key stage 1 and 2). This team of professionals know the children well and work together to ensure that each child is placed in the best class to meet their needs. In reaching this decision, we will consider a number of factors including:

- friendship groupings
- how well different children work together, or vice versa!
- stage of development/ level of learning
- date of birth
- learning styles
- strengths of the teacher matched to the needs of the child

Please rest assured that this is not a decision we take lightly and we always have the children's best interests at heart. Whichever class your child is based in, they will be taught in an appropriate way to meet their needs and they will cover the curriculum skills for their particular year group. Teachers are highly skilled at planning learning to meet the needs of a wide range of children and will always ensure that all children are challenged to meet their full potential. Every teacher, whether it be a pure age class or mixed, is asked to teach to the top level of ability and differentiate down for others – in this case, age has no importance.

Obviously parents talk to one another about classes, this is only normal. **However we do ask for sensitivity to be shown to other parents and children.** In the past we have had parents come to us quite upset, because other members of the community have reportedly said things like:

- *'My child has skipped a class.'*
- *'All the lower abilities go with Mrs X teacher.'*
- *'I've told school my child won't be going in Mrs X's class.'*

Please can I reassure you that:

- children at Wombwell Park Street **NEVER** skip a class
- teachers are not assigned to teach specific abilities (this would never do the children any good in terms of learning, nor the teacher for professional development)
- whilst we are always happy and prepared to listen and take your views in to consideration about your child's next class, the team of professionals will make the ultimate and final decision and we ask that you respect that.

Thank you for your anticipated support and I hope that this letter brings clarity to life at Wombwell Park Street Primary School. Should you need to discuss this further, the Leadership Team are available each day, using the details on the letter head.

Many thanks for your anticipated support and understanding.

Mrs C Lawson
Headteacher

Mrs L Longden
Deputy Headteacher

Miss Clare McGinnes
FS / KS1 Leader

Mrs S Vaughton
Lead SENDCo

Mr A Fidment
SENDCo