



PERTH & KINROSS
COUNCIL

Education &
Children's Services

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Structuring Classes in Primary Schools



in Perth and Kinross



How does a school decide how many classes to have?

Each year, primary schools are allocated a number of class teachers based on the total number of pupils on the roll of the school.

When it comes to setting up class groups, there are maximum numbers of children which can be in any class. These are as follows:

- *P1: 25 children*
- *P2 and P3: 30 children*
- *P4 - P7: 33 children*
- *any composite class: 25 children*

There is also a maximum number of children which can be accommodated in each classroom. This is determined by the floor area of the room.

Taking account of all of these factors, the school's headteacher and senior managers group children into registration classes to make best use of available teachers and classrooms.

How does the headteacher decide on class groups?

If a school has more than one P1 class, the headteacher takes account of several factors in allocating classes including:

- *each child's date of birth;*
- *transition reports provided by a nursery or pre-school provision;*
- *gender;*
- *family circumstances;*
- *creating learning groups.*

Across the school, class structures may be changed from one session to another due to a number of factors including:

- *the whole school roll for the new session and the number of teachers allocated to the school;*
- *children joining or leaving the school at each stage;*
- *classroom capacities;*
- *the known needs of individual learners;*
- *creating learning groups.*

How does the headteacher make up a composite class - one with children from more than one year group?

When a composite class is required, the headteacher will be guided in the first instance by each child's date of birth, so that children are in a class group with those close to them in age. At times, where unusual circumstances exist, headteachers will also take other relevant, individual factors into account when allocating children to classes. These might include:

- *family circumstances;*
- *significant gender imbalance;*
- *overview of additional support needs;*
- *creating learning groups.*

How do teachers meet the needs of all learners when children are at different ages and stages?

The job of each class teacher is to provide learning experiences and activities which make the best use of all available resources in meeting the needs of all learners.

The age range in a class can be six months (for example, in a composite class in a large school), or seven years (for example, in our smallest schools). Across Perth and Kinross, class teachers engage in careful planning, assessment, tracking and recording of learning to ensure that every child can make good progress in their learning.

It is important to note that the nature of learning in 21st century Scotland means that the provision of high-quality learning experiences is not dependent on registration class structures. In the context of Curriculum for Excellence, schools organise their learners in a range of groupings for various purposes, to engage children and to challenge them. This approach gives children opportunities to form positive relationships with children from across all the stages of the school from nursery to P7.

