



Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Penderyn.
Mixed Year Group Policy.

Approved by Governing Body: Autumn 2024

Signed (Chair of Governors): Mrs P Oliver

Signed (Headteacher): Mr A Wood

Review Date: As required

MIXED AGE CLASSES

Many schools in RCT have classes where the children's age range is larger than a year. This is not a new situation for our schools who have successfully educated children in mixed aged classes for many years. The reason for organising classes in this way is because schools are funded per pupil and there may also be a class size limit of 30 pupils. A year group will often be either more or less than this number and so for educational and financial reasons pupils will need to be grouped with either older or younger pupils

A considerable amount of research has been carried out on the impact of mixed-aged classes on children's achievement. The research indicates that children make the same or better progress in mixed-age classes than those children in same-age classes. Also children in mixed-age classes have significantly more positive attitudes towards school, themselves and others (Stone, 1998; Veenman, 1996). The Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) lists a number of benefits of mixed-age classes. These include:

- Children's needs are more accurately met as the teacher focuses on teaching each child according to his or her strengths.
- Children learn at their own rate and have more opportunity to take charge of their learning. This sense of "ownership" and self direction is the foundation for life long learning.
- Children develop a sense of family with their classmates. They become a "family of learners" who support and care for each other.
- Older children have the opportunity to take leadership roles.
- Children are more likely to co-operate than compete.
- Older children model more sophisticated approaches to problem solving, and younger children are able to accomplish tasks they could not do without the assistance of older children.

As a school when we have to split year groups it will be based mainly on the Date of Birth but in some circumstances other factors may be taken into account.

At Penderyn Primary School we will ensure that the teachers who are chosen to teach a mixed age class will have been well prepared to work effectively with this situation. School schemes of work, assessment procedures, resources and training will ensure that all children make good progress. Each child will be given work according to his/her stage of development. The new Curriculum for Wales – ensures that the child is taught as an individual and that their stage of development, not their age informs the teacher's planning. Our emphasis when planning and teaching is to focus on stage not age.

The well being of the children is also of great importance for the school. The school will make sure that the children are happy and settled in their new classes and that there are opportunities for children to continue with their peer friendship groups throughout the school day.