



## **St. Brigid's Boys' National School Policy on Reconstitution of Classes**

### **Policy Timeline:**

<b>Ratified by the Board of Management on:</b>	February 2026
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	February 2029

### **Rationale**

In the interest of all pupils in St. Brigid's BNS and with a view to ensuring proportionate alignment of the academic, social and emotional needs within classes, reconstitution of classes may take place after Second Class. Reconstitution of classes may also take place at any class level as needs arise, based on the professional judgment of the staff and at the discretion of school management.

The following are the main benefits that would flow from the reconstitution of classes:

- Reconstituting classes will broaden and extend children's friendships and social skills through providing them with the opportunity to interact with and bond with a greater number of children, whilst still being enabled to maintain their previous friendships during recreational activities.
- The reconstitution of classes will equip all children with the ability to be able to cope with transition and change. These are invaluable life-skills. It is widely documented that the transition from primary to post-primary school can be a source of much stress for pupils. One of the main reasons for this, as cited by pupils, is the fear of being separated from their friends. Experiences of this change/transition during primary school years will, therefore, serve a dual purpose in this regard; it will enhance children's confidence about their ability to integrate into a new setting and reduce their anxiety about separating from their class group.
- Reconstituting classes will enhance classroom dynamics through catering for an even spread of personality types across the classes. When children begin school in Junior Infants, there is no way of knowing the personalities of the children. This will emerge, naturally, as children spend a

- period of time in the school.
- The Reconstitution of classes will also enable the staff to ensure that all classes are mixed ability, which is the optimal learning environment, as advocated by the Department of Education and Youth. The rationale for this is that children in mixed-ability groups can all contribute at their own level of understanding.

### **Criteria and Considerations for Class Reconstitution:**

When reconfiguring classes the following criteria will be taken into consideration.

- The dynamics of the class must be considered. Emotional, behavioural, educational and social factors will be taken into consideration when forming new groupings.
- Pupil-Teacher ratio. Classes need to have a balance of numbers.
- Mixed-ability groups. It is considered best to form mixed-ability groups in each class. A good balance of abilities in each class is the ideal. Standardised test results, assessment reports from outside professional agencies and class teachers' reports will be used to guide class reconstitution.
- The needs of children with S.N.A. access will be taken into consideration.
- The final decision will ultimately lie with the Principal.
- Please note students will be afforded opportunities to socialise with his original class group at yard times and on school trips.

### **Method**

- A positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome for the boys in these new groups.
- Parents will be notified at the beginning of Term 3 before a reconstitution takes place.
- In the third term students will receive a Friendship Form, on which they will identify the three friends with whom they would like to be grouped for the following year. Students will be guaranteed to be grouped with at least one of their three nominated friends.
- Children and teachers will know their new classes by the end of the Academic Year, unless a new teacher has to be appointed.

**Review and Ratification**

**This policy will be ratified at least every 3 years**

**Policy Sign Off Policy Sign Off:**

Signed: Chairperson	
Date:	09/02/2026
Signed: Principal	
Date:	09/02/2026

