



Gaelscoil Mhainistir na Corann (GSMNC)

Bán Sheáin, Mainistir na Corann, Co. Chorcaí

Fón/Fax: 021 4613599 www.gsmnc.ie

Ríomhphost: oifig@gsmnc.ie Uimhir Rolla: 20107G

Class Reconfiguration Policy

Introduction

This policy is the result of whole school collaboration with the Board of Management to ensure that our class reconfiguring is completed at regular intervals and always in the best interests of the children.

Rationale

Although the process of reconfiguration of classes is one that takes much time, reflection and resources, it is acknowledged by the school body that it has significant value in terms of the effective running of the school and the wellbeing of the children in the long term. It is an approach that has been adopted by more and more schools across the country in recent times with wide ranging positive benefits.

In each school year grouping, it quickly becomes apparent that there can be a real discrepancy between classes in terms of academic ability, behaviour and general dynamics. We are also keenly aware that many children move on to secondary school without getting to know many of their peers.

The following are the specific main benefits that flow from the annual reconfiguration of classes:

- A better mix of strengths and needs as well as an even number of pupil in each class
- The promotion of a community spirit within the school
- The opportunity for the children to make more friends, particularly if they have not developed strong bonds in their initial class grouping

- The cultivation of a wider circle of friends, something which will be particularly useful when they move on to secondary school
- The development of social skills and the facilitation of greater resilience, resourcefulness and flexibility
- A capacity to deal with change

Method for Reconfiguring Classes

Informing parents

- This policy will be available on the school website.
- Parents of incoming infants will be made aware of the policy as a practice and in terms of the principles behind it and that specific school approach in the welcome pack received by each family **prior to their children beginning with us** in the school.
- The policy will be referred to again at the new infants' meeting in the school in **June/September**.
- Parents will be made aware of any amendments to the policy after annual reviews.

The Process of Reconfiguration - Step by Step

- **From January onwards**, the subjects of PE, art, drama, SPHE and Aistear will all provide opportunities for the children to mix with one another under the guidance of the two/three class teachers. These opportunities will be specifically designed in the formal planning of the teachers.
- **In the months of February and March**, the teachers will deliver specific lessons on the concepts of friendships and change to prepare the children for their new class groupings.
- A form will be sent home **a fortnight before the Easter holidays** on which the parents, with input from their children, can identify the names of 4 children from their year grouping they would like to be in their class the following year.
- ***Parents who do not provide at least 4 names are not fulfilling the criteria and therefore the school will have the right to decide what class to place the child/ren.***
- We appreciate that this process can be a challenging one for some families. We would invite any parents in senior infants and third class with specific concerns around the mix to speak with the class teacher or the principal **before the Easter holidays**.
- In the months of **May and June**, the class teachers, Special Education Team, deputy principal and principal will work closely together to decide on the best possible reconfiguration of classes. We guarantee that at least one friend from each child's list will be in the new class with them.

- Once a final decision is made, the parents will be informed immediately by email of their child's new class grouping.
- Once a decision has been made, no applications for change will be accepted at that point.
- The children will have the opportunity to spend one or two days with their new class grouping **prior to the end of the year.**
- The name of the new class teacher will be shared with the parents at the same time as this information is communicated to the whole school community.
- **In September**, the school leadership and Special Education Team will keep a close eye on the three classes and will provide additional support when and where required insofar as it is possible.

Exceptions

As detailed above, it is the intention of the school to carry out the reconfiguring of classes at the end of senior infants and 3rd class. **However, there may be rare occasions when it will be necessary to carry out the reconfiguration process in other classes.** If a decision is taken to do this, the relevant parents will be informed as soon as possible.

The principles of the policy were agreed upon at the Board of Management meeting on the 27th of April 2022. The details of the above policy have now been finalised and will be ratified at the board meeting in November 2022.

- **Reconfiguration may take place for junior infants at the end of the 2023/2024 school year depending on Department of Education Allocation of Teachers in April 2024.**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on **9th of November 2023** and will be reviewed annually.

Signed: 

Chairperson of the BOM

Signed: 

Principal

Date: 9/11/23

Date: 9.11.2023