



Greystones CNS - Class Allocation Policy

Junior Infants

Main Considerations

Each year we welcome 54 new children to our Junior Infant cohort. These children, whom we have very little information on, must be then divided into 2 classes in such a manner to ensure an equitable spread of **age, gender and Special Educational Needs**. This will ensure that there is a healthy mix of the youngest and oldest children, boys and girls as well as children with Special Educational Needs. We also endeavour to visit/speak to as many crèches as possible to give us even more information on our new children before they start and this information is also used to help with class allocation.

Friendship Groupings

We also ask parents to highlight any friendship groupings and **will do our best** to put your child with at least one familiar face. However, as you can see from the first paragraph putting children together with friends cannot be the main consideration. **As such we cannot guarantee your child will be with a specific friend.**

What if my child is not with their friend?

Junior Infant teachers and indeed all staff make massive efforts to ease the transition for your child to mainstream schooling and to ensure that they develop socially will encourage them to make as many new friendships as possible. In fact, it would be far from ideal for them to depend on just one or two select friends as they begin their 8 year-long primary school journey. Also, mainstream school will involve more formal lessons than a crèche so they will not be sitting, chatting and playing with their friends throughout the day – some work must get done also.

Should they end up in different classes please also bear in mind that they will still meet their friends before and after school and most importantly at playtimes.

Class changes after initial allocation in the initial months

Despite the best efforts of all parties sometimes children can present with previously unrecognised needs such as sensory issues or emotional behavioural difficulties. In such cases it may be required to move some children between classes to ensure we retain the balance described in the first paragraph. The final decision on this rests with the school to ensure we retain that balance.

Sen Infants (From Sept 24)

As children develop and mature sometimes additional needs, such as sensory issues or emotional behavioural difficulties, that were not previously notable can become apparent. As such at GCNS we will at the end of every year, and if required during the school year, review the needs in each class and if required move some children between classes to ensure we retain a balance as it pertains to additional needs and ability levels in each class.

Parents will be consulted in advance of any such moves however, the final decision on this rests with the principal, who has been delegated this responsibility by the Board of management.

Please note, parent requests to move groups are not considered under any circumstances.

Movement of children between cohorts will only occur for reasons of balancing needs in both classes and the decision of the board will be final on this matter.