



Mixed Age Classes at Stoneydelph

Sometimes parents are concerned if their child is in a mixed age class. Research shows there is no evidence that mixed-age classes have a negative impact on children's progress or attainment. Teachers in all schools are skilled in managing the needs of pupils with a range of abilities and ages. There is no difference in this with a single age or mixed-age class. Stoneydelph teachers are all very experienced in teaching mixed-age classes and the curriculum is designed to accommodate this. This explains why and how we organise mixed-age classes at Stoneydelph.

Why mixed age classes?

- PAN (pupil admission number) is 45
- Infant Class Sizes rules are maximum of 30 for KS1, can go over this in KS2

What is our class structure for 2022-3

- Reception/Y1 mix (approx 21 children in each class)
- Year 1/2 mix (30 children in each class)
- Year 3/4 mix (28 children in each class)
- Year 5 (28 children)
- Year 6 (33 children)

How are children grouped during the day?

In Key Stage 1, children are grouped for phonics for one lesson every day based on reading assessments. This ensures the children are being taught to read at an appropriate level for their phonic knowledge.

For maths lessons in Y1-4, we put the children into age specific groups in line with our maths programme 'Maths Mastery'. Additional adults are used to teach groups in order to keep the maths groups smaller in number. This helps pupils to access resources.

In Key Stage 2, the children may be grouped for French (delivered by Ms Woodward) to ensure any gaps from lockdown are addressed.

Frequently asked questions

Do the children in the older half of the class repeat learning from previous year?

No. All of our learning from Y1-6 is on a 2 year cycle (A and B) and the curriculum is carefully planned to ensure topics, texts and experiences are not repeated. (all curriculum planning can be seen on our website)

Do the children have to do work that is too easy (if they are in the older half of the class) or difficult (if they are in the younger half of the class)?

No. All of the work is matched to the needs of the children in the class. Some children in the younger half of the class may be challenged with the more difficult tasks. Equally some children in the older half of the class may need support or to complete the simplified tasks. This does not relate to the age of the child but

to their needs. In any single age class there will be a range of abilities and teachers match the tasks to the needs of the children in the same way. This is called 'differentiation'

Does the behaviour of the children in mixed age classes affect learning?

Behaviour can have an impact on learning but this is not any different in mixed age classes. Behaviour for learning at Stoneydelph is excellent and pupils behave well in lessons due to the high expectations of the staff and the effective behaviour and relationships policy we use in school.

Will more able learners be challenged sufficiently with younger children in the class?

Yes. Teachers know the children well in their class and know how to provide greater challenges to pupils who grasp the learning quickly. This will not be age specific but for any pupil who is demonstrating they are ready to progress further with their learning.

Will SEND pupils or those that find learning more challenging, be supported in a mixed age class?

Yes. Children who are struggling to understand the learning will be supported by teacher or additional adults in the classroom regardless of age.

Other 'pros' of mixed age classes

- Younger children learn from more mature classmates
- Older pupils demonstrate responsibility to the new children in the year group
- Children become more sociable and mix with a larger friendship network
- Children are more confident playing together at break/lunch with older/younger pupils from different classes
- Children collaborate with older/younger pupils and build relationships during lessons
- Children have the opportunity to make progress at their own rate which is not specific to their age

More information on mixed age classes can be found on these websites.

[Power of Mixed-Age Learning, Benefits of Mixed Age Classrooms \(parentcircle.com\)](https://parentcircle.com/power-of-mixed-age-learning-benefits-of-mixed-age-classrooms)

[The challenges and benefits of learning in mixed-age classrooms \(mathsnoproblem.com\)](https://mathsnoproblem.com/the-challenges-and-benefits-of-learning-in-mixed-age-classrooms)

If you require further information, please contact the school office to make an appointment with a member of staff.

