



CLASS PLACEMENT

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community how we manage requests for class placements, for the following school year.

POLICY

The process that Footscray City Primary School works through to plan each student's class placement begins months before the end of the school year. We understand that in certain situations, parents and carers may like to request that their child be placed with a particular friend or in a particular class.

Requests for placement with friends

Footscray City Primary School recognises the importance of fostering and maintaining friendship groups. We also understand that it is equally important for students to mix and learn with peers who have different interests.

If you would like to request that your child be placed in a class with a particular friend or friends, please ensure that you respond to the notification from the Principal in Term 4 of the year prior so that we can consider your request in organising our classes for the following year.

Requests for class placements must be made in writing, outlining who you would like your child to be placed with and why. Requests are to be addressed to the Principal. We will not always be able to accommodate class placement requests, but will endeavour to take your wishes into consideration where possible.

Children will have the opportunity to nominate 5 friends for whom they wish to be placed in a class the following year. This will be conducted by the classroom teacher and will be done with sensitivity to the needs of individual students. This list of friends will not be considered in a preference order and the school will prioritise the placement of children with 1 of their listed friends.

There are times where the placement of a child with 1 of their 5 friends is not able to be delivered and in this case, the school will work closely with the family of this child to secure the best outcome.

Requests for placement with certain teachers

All teachers at Footscray City Primary School are caring and committed educators and Footscray City Primary School strives to ensure that all students are provided with a high quality education.

Whilst we appreciate that you may wish that your child would benefit from being placed in a class with a particular teacher, we do not invite such requests. Our school's leadership team has an in-depth understanding of each teacher's strengths and will always endeavour to place our students with teachers who are best placed to suit their needs. We do not re-allocate students to different classes during the school year, unless exceptional circumstances arise. Parents will be advised of the situation if it arises.

Requests for students to repeat a year level

Footscray City Primary School

Our school will follow the Department of Education and Training policy in the Department's *Policy and Advisory Library* on Year Level Movement – see [Repeating a Year Level](#) policy.

The best option for almost every child is to stay with their peer group. There is little evidence to support the benefits of repeating a year. We will exercise our professional expertise and judgment in relation to these matters in consultation with parents/carers. Students are only able to repeat a year level in exceptional circumstances where Footscray City Primary School considers it is required for the long-term benefit of the student e.g. considering their social, wellbeing and academic needs. We will ensure that parents/carers are advised of the options that we consider best meet individual student needs. Students will not repeat a year level without the consent of parents/carers.

Class Progression 2021

In response to the DET priorities and as part of our ongoing response to the impact of the pandemic on student learning, engagement and wellbeing, we are taking a different approach to the placement of students in classes for 2021.

Children will remain in their current 2020 class and progress with the same group of students to the next year level in 2021.

Please note:

- Students will remain with their peers and will have a new classroom teacher
- Students will progress to the next year level and will not repeat a school year
- This class placement approach does not apply to year 6 students in 2021 as they will be organised into two year 6 classes
- Student workshops will be facilitated before the end of the term to attend to student questions and/or concerns

The needs of our students are always our highest priority and at the centre of our decisions. In implementing this model for 2021, we will be considering the context of each child and will respond on a case-by-case basis to those for whom remaining in the same class for 2021 is not preferred. A member of the leadership team will make contact with these families accordingly.

Rationale:

- **Student Learning** - this model will allow for the seamless transition of data relating to student learning and wellbeing from the 2020 classroom teacher to the 2021 teacher, and make it easier to facilitate collaboration between the two educators. This would therefore enhance our capacity to meet children at their point of need at the immediate commencement of the 2021 school year and with that have a greater impact on student learning, engagement and wellbeing outcomes.
- **Transitions** - this model would allow children to move with a group of peers for whom they have already established relationships within the learning environment. It would serve as a point of consistency as they transition into a new year of schooling after the interruptions they experienced in 2020, and they already have a selected friend in their class after the process conducted to form these groups at the end of 2019.
- **Wellbeing** - we anticipate that looping the classes will reduce levels of uncertainty for students and their families in relation to the start of the new school year. We anticipate that the pre-existing relationships and sense of identity as a class will support feelings of trust and safety, and have a positive impact on student motivation and attendance.



REVIEW CYCLE

Date Implemented	November, 2020
Author	Jessie Hand
Approved By	Principal
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	
Responsible for Review	Principal
Review Date	August, 2024