

Mixed Year 3 and 4 Classes

Wednesday 1st July



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Why?



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- Pupil numbers – Year 4 – 40 children, Year 3 – 58 children
- Effective use of staff resources
- Pupil needs – number of children with additional needs can be split across 4 classes
- Year 3 and 4 curriculum are very similar – Year 3 introduces concepts, Year 4 embeds them
- Many benefits

Examples



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- Is normal in many countries including England, Finland and New Zealand
- Many small schools
- Has happened here in the past



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How it works in principle

- **Curriculum Planning** - long-term and medium-term planning ensures full curriculum coverage across two-year program.
- **Adaptations** - teachers deliver core content separately or integrate lessons where Year 3 and 4 topics overlap naturally.
- **Differentiated Teaching** - core subjects are taught with tailored tasks and success criteria for each year group to meet diverse needs.
- **Assessment** - regular formative and summative assessments help identify gaps and support tailored teaching adjustments.



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How it works in practice

- Similar content, 1 input, different levels of learning.
- Similar content, teaching to Year 3 (recap for Year 4), then Year 3 complete learning task whilst Year 4 have slightly longer input.
- Different content – Year 3 practise key skills during Year 4 input, then Year 4 complete learning during Year 3 input (or vice versa).
- Different content - cut away groups.

Benefits



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Research and experience have shown many benefits, including:

- Role models
- Confidence
- Collaboration
- Friendships
- Independence
- Peer support
- Flexible learning
- Individual pupil needs
- Improved outcomes

Research



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- Social benefits

<https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/education/multi-age-classrooms#full-article>

- Impact on attainment

<https://res.org.uk/mediabriefing/mixing-years-groups-at-school-new-research-shows-that-composite-classes-can-boost-pupil-attainment/>

- Summary of key research

https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/aciqv9/general-resources/planning/ac_multi-age_ed_research_summary.pdf

- Review of research

<https://cerj.educ.cam.ac.uk/archive/v62019/CORERJ-Journal-Volume6-10-ToMixOrNotToMix.pdf>

- Interview with a Headteacher about Mixed Age classes

<https://www.hamilton-trust.org.uk/blog/mix-and-match/>

Questions?



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