

## Composite Class Information 2022



A booklet for parents



This leaflet is intended to give more information about composite classes, how they work and how children are taught in a composite setting.

The leaflet has been created to give further detail to the Scottish Borders Council Admissions Policy, which details how composite classes are created and the criteria for creating these classes. The full policy can be found here: [Admissions and class composition policy | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/admissions-and-class-composition-policy)



Next session, there will be composite classes at West Linton Primary School and your child may be in a composite class for the first time.

We would like to reassure you that being in a composite class gives no advantage or disadvantage to pupils. Instead all classes at West Linton Primary School (WLPS) are taught by experienced and qualified teachers who have a full and clear understanding of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) from Early – Second Level (spanning nursery to Primary 7 and beyond). The teachers will plan, implement and assess learning based on where the pupils are and their own learning targets.

### How Composite classes are created

Composite classes are created based on the whole school roll from P1-7 and are classes that include children from more than one year group.

Composite classes are necessary when there are more than the capped (maximum) number of pupils for a class in one year group or if there are too few pupils in a year group to create a single stream class. The current maximum class sizes are:

P1 – 25 pupils

P2 and P3 – 30 pupils

P4, 5, 6, 7 – 33 pupils

Composite classes – 25 pupils

When a child is in a composite class, measures will be taken to ensure that they do not lose touch from friends by developing their year group identity and they can continue, of course, to choose who to play with at recreation times.

Where year groups are split into composite classes, the first criteria for creating the classes will be date of birth, followed by consideration to gender balance within the class. Attainment or progress **are not a factor** in the creation of classes.

In some instances there may only be a small number of pupils from one year group transitioning into a composite class, however in this situation, there will be:

- no fewer than four pupils
- at least one other child of the same gender

from a child's previous class.



### How Composite Classes Work

Composite classes work in exactly the same way as single year group classes.

Teaching staff teach a Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) experiences and outcomes, appropriate to the level of learning of all pupils in the class.

Across Scotland, a class may include learners working at different levels of CfE (Early, First, Second) – whether composite or a single year group. This is due to the flexibility CfE offers to support and challenge learners at their own pace of learning. So a P1 class may have learners working at both Early and First Level; the same as is likely to be the case in a P1/2 composite class.

To ensure that pupils in composite classes have a year group identity as well as a class identity; teachers plan their class learning together to ensure similar opportunities are planned. Where appropriate, the teachers also come together to provide opportunities throughout the school year for children from the same year group to learn and play together.

Some of the opportunities year groups will have together may include:

- Year Group Services/ Assemblies
- School trips
- Health and Wellbeing Learning
- Interdisciplinary Learning
- Small group activity/development e.g. Ministers For groups in Primary 7
- Goldentime/Masterclasses
- Outdoor Learning experiences

### How children are taught in a Composite Class

Children in a composite class have the same experience of teaching and learning as children in a single year group class.



All classes require a level of differentiation and a composite class is no different to this. Differentiation is the range of teaching techniques and lesson adaptations that educators use to instruct a diverse group of students, with diverse learning needs in the same learning environment.

As such, teachers plan and deliver lessons targeted to meet the needs of learners based on where they are in their learning journey (rather than age or stage) making use of assessment evidence to support young people to continually make progress. This could involve children having targeted teaching time with small groups, different games and tasks or support and challenge opportunities with ANAs.

All teaching is underpinned by the 'Scottish Borders Council Teaching, Learning and Assessment Framework' which details how children should be taught in Scottish Borders classrooms. The policy can be found here on our school website: [Curriculum | West Linton Primary School](#)

### Comments from Parents

"All children are taught to their abilities so being with children in a different year group does not affect your child's learning."

"Try not to be too worried and ask the school for as much information about the decision making process involved: class sizes and structure; and for reassurance."

"Don't worry, ask questions, seek clarity. In our experience, composite classes are no different to non-composite classes and children are encouraged to learn at their own speed and ability. A composite class provides an opportunity to develop social skills and adapt to new circumstances."

"My child's peer group has opened up. Discuss any issues or anxieties with school staff."

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity for the kids to meet other kids but also for parents to make new friends through kids. Also composite gives an opportunity to kids to get out of their comfort zone and learn social skills in a controlled environment."

"I think it is beneficial that my child gets to work with children older or younger than her. She makes a much wider circle of friends and her learning is more tailored to her age, rather than her stage."

Should you have any questions relation to the leaflet or the policies hyperlinked, then please contact the school on: [WestLintonPS@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:WestLintonPS@scotborders.gov.uk)