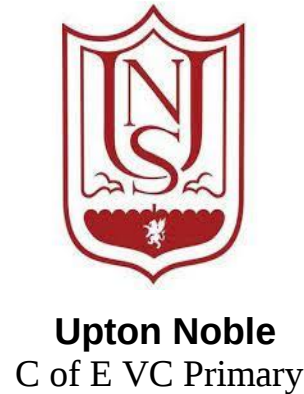


# East Somerset Federation



**Bruton**  
Primary School



**Upton Noble**  
C of E VC Primary

## ***Mixed Age Class Policy***

**Approved by the Governing Body of  
The East Somerset Federation**

**Signed:** 

**Date:** September 2023

**Date for Review:** September 2025

## **Background**

Due to fluctuating school pupil numbers and associated school funding it is necessary to have flexibility in the structure of registration classes. This will include the consideration of mixed age classes. The school has operated with mixed-age classes for a number of years because the intake at Bruton/Upton Noble continues to fluctuate between one class and a class and a half. As a result of pupil numbers not always being consistent each year, governors have agreed there will be a need for mixed aged classes in some or all cohorts. Each year the Local Authority (Somerset) publishes an admission number for all schools . Our Published Admission Number is currently 42 for Bruton/25 for Upton Noble for all year groups. At Reception/Key Stage 1 there is a legal limit of 30 children in a class. At Key Stage 2 there is no legal limit to the size of each class.

## **Do mixed age classes make a difference to children's progress?**

Ofsted's publication (May 2012) Mathematics Made to Measure which was based on evidence gathered between January 2008 and July 2011 found that for primary schools 'no marked difference in learning and progress was noted between mixed age and single age classes.' As is normal practice, children are taught the relevant curriculum in each class and the work is adapted and pitched to meet the needs of all children.

## **How will teachers plan to ensure coverage of the appropriate curriculum, preventing repetition of content?**

With the exception of Maths, English and Science, the curriculum content for Key Stage 1 and 2 is not split into separate Year group content; rather, there is an expectation for the end of the key stage. Curriculum areas such as History and Geography will be taught on a two year cycles', ensuring that content is not repeated unless it needs to be built upon. In the case of Maths and English, the two curricula are completely aligned, with the majority of objectives being matched with a similar but slightly trickier objective for the following year group, for example, Year 1's are expected to count forward in multiples of 2, 5 and 10, Year 2 are further expected to do this backwards. Ensuring coverage of national curriculum objectives for both year groups in the same classroom will therefore be easily facilitated by normal classroom differentiation.

## **Policy for class structure including mixed age classes**

Date of birth will be the first main criteria with the oldest children in reception coming together with the youngest of the year group above to form a new class. However, there are other factors that are taken into consideration as follows: Individual educational and social needs of the children; Siblings; Friendship groups (each child will have at least one friend in the class to which s/he is allocated); Special needs (for example a child with mobility issues may require a classroom that is accessed by ramps or handrails without the need to negotiate steps); Parents of twins may want their children separated or kept together; classroom size and capacity. There may be exceptions to this, and for these individual children the parents' concerned will be

invited to discuss the school's decision before the registration groups are finalised . In year 1 and year 2 pupils will be split according to ability and group size.

Where there are two classes with the same mix of year groups for example two Year 3/Year 4 mixed classes, these classes will be parallel e.g. gender, ability, SEND needs will be balanced between each class. Although classes are very carefully organised, at times and on special occasions children may change to different teaching groups during the school day or may access additional support outside of the classroom depending on their individual needs. As is normal practice, children will be taught the relevant curriculum in each Key Stage and for each year group and work will be adapted and pitched to meet the needs of every child in the class.

### **Single Age Classes**

In a year group where there is more than one class of a single age e.g: two straight Year 1 classes will be organised as parallel classes with an equal mix of gender, ability and children with additional educational needs. As with mixed aged classes, at times and special occasions, children may change to different teaching groups during the school day or may access additional support outside of the classroom depending on their individual needs.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

Every child will have access to all resources within the Early Years Foundation area. Staffing in the EYFS will be appropriate to ensure the full entitlement of the EYFS curriculum can be delivered with ease to all children.

### **Special Educational Needs**

All children entitled to support, identified in the Education and Health Care Plan, will continue receiving such support whichever registration class they are in. This support will take a variety of forms including some 1:1 provision; small group support in class, small group support away from the classroom, external support when required or additional physical resources to support independent learning. Each of these will be monitored by the school SENDCo.

### **Concerns from Parents/Carers**

Children quickly adapt to their new classes and we ask they are given an opportunity to do so. We will give them several opportunities before the end of the school year to meet their new class mates. Parents will be informed of where their child is placed and given an opportunity to discuss these placements with the existing teacher or senior leaders if they have serious concerns. After a trial period and discussion with team leaders, if a parent/carer remains unhappy about where their child is placed they can write to the Head of School outlining their specific concerns and reasons for requesting a change. This will be considered by the Head of School alongside reasons given by teachers and a final decision will be made in writing to the parent within 10 working days. If the parent/carer remains unhappy they can use the school's formal complaints procedure which is available from the school office or the school website.

### **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually to take into account pupil numbers and budget figures each academic year.