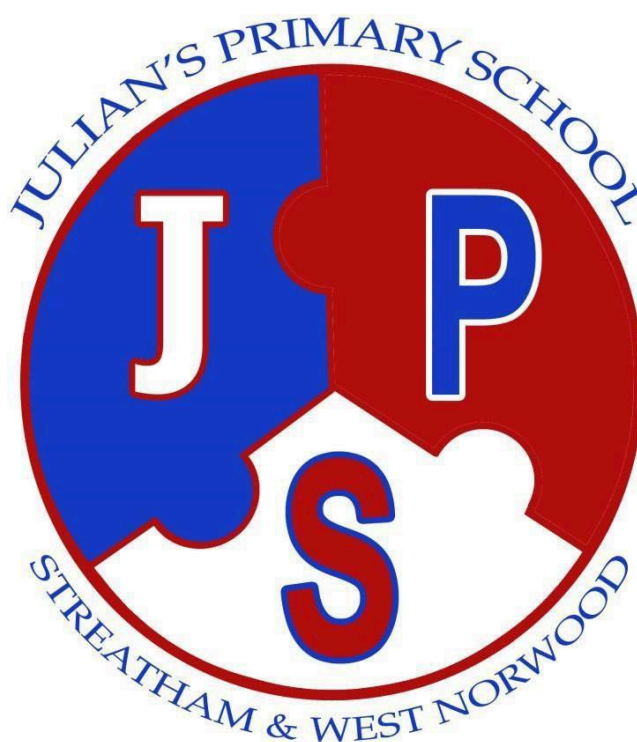


Julian's Primary School



Mixing Classes Policy

Approved by:	Alison Møller Executive Headteacher Approved by Governing Body	Date: 30 January 2026
Last reviewed on:	30 June 2026	
Next review due by:	30 January 2028	

It is normal within the British education system that classes are mixed at the end of a certain Year group or Key Stage. At Julian's Primary, we are committed to establishing a safe and happy learning environment for all pupils. With this in mind, we aim to continuously maintain a balance across classes. We have therefore established a system whereby every year 1 class will be mixed at the end of each academic year. Classes in other year groups may also be mixed at the end of academic years. These decisions are made dependent on the needs of the children and school to ensure that:

- There are opportunities for children to learn and play with a wider variety of peers.
- To enable greater social interaction and educational equality between children as they move through the school.
- To ensure that the classes remain balanced in response to pupil transfer and transition during phases.
- To promote a greater sense of community.

Rationale

We have discovered from past class mixing that there have been many benefits and positives. We have found that the strategic rationale for class mixing generally revolves around the following core benefits:

- **Expanding Social Networks:** Mixing encourages children to learn, play and collaborate with a wider variety of peers. This prevents social isolation and helps new students integrate smoothly.
- **Building Social Resilience:** Interacting with different classmates, helps children adapt to change, a critical skill that better prepares them for the complex social and structural transitions in secondary school.
- **Resetting Class Dynamics:** Class mixing allows children to 'reinvent' themselves or leave behind negative dynamics. A child who was quiet in one group may become more confident and outgoing in another.
- **Promoting a Broader Community:** It encourages children to view themselves as part of an entire year group, rather than being isolated in just 'one class.'
- **Balancing the Cohort:** Classes are balanced in terms of academic ability, gender ratios and special educational needs (SEND).

Principles

- The arrangements for class mixing are based on the professional judgements of Class Teachers, the Senior Leadership and Inclusion Teams.
- We will always balance the needs of individual children with the best interests of the class as a whole when making decisions.
- We will always consider the happiness and welfare of the children and will take into consideration existing friendship groups when we create new classes.

Criteria for Mixing Classes

Classes will be mixed to achieve a good balance according to the following criteria:

- Age and level of maturity
- Gender
- Attainment needs
- Range of educational, social and personal needs
- Range of Special Educational Needs
- Range of English as an additional language
- Friendships*

**Friendships: Over the course of their primary years, children will have a range of friendship*

experiences. We find that with children some friendships can be very fluid, whilst others can stand the test of time. Children will also remain free to play with whoever they would like at playtimes and lunchtimes.

The Process

- Leaders, class teachers and teaching assistants observe the children's interactions across the whole academic year and therefore class mixing decisions are well informed.
- The class teachers will meet to plan the new classes based on current friendship groups and will ensure that a child is in a class with at least one friend.
- The Deputy Head and Head Teacher of each site will meet with class teachers to finalise the classes.
- The mixing classes letter will go out to parent/carers in July. This is to ensure teachers have time to carefully consider the class mixes and then have these checked and approved by SLT and Inclusion.
- The pupils will be supported by the staff throughout the process to ensure that all of their well-being needs are met. As an example, children will be given the opportunity to socialise in their new class groups before the end of the summer term.

Points to note:

- Please note that we assign the classes based on the pupils on roll and attending Julian's Primary during the summer term.
- Parents are welcome to speak to their class teacher regarding class friendships and mixing. However, once class lists have been finalized, changes will not be possible. Nor is it always possible to share all the decision-making processes in individual situations for reasons of pupil confidentiality. Please be assured that the new class lists will be based on the professional judgements of our team, with the best interests of our children at heart. We ask for a positive and supportive attitude from parents to ensure a smooth transition for the children.