
THE PATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

CLASS FORMATION**Rationale:**

A clearly defined, collaborative process for the placement of children into home groups that will lead to greater efficiency, increased understanding and improved opportunities for learning.

Aims:

- To provide each child with the opportunity to be part of a home group of children that will allow them the best opportunity to learn.
- To form well balanced home groups of children that take into account the social, emotional, academic and physical characteristics of each child.
- To ensure that optimum use is made of the prior knowledge that teachers, parents and others have of each child prior to home group placement.

Implementation:

- While the allocation of children to various home groups, structures and compositions is ultimately the responsibility of the Principal, a collaborative process will be employed.
- The process of forming home groups will commence in November of the previous year.
- The Principal, in consultation with staff and after considering student numbers, will determine the number of home groups for the following year, home group sizes and the year levels of each home group.
- Expressions of interest will be sought from staff members to teach each home group. Once decided, staff members will be required to work collaboratively to create draft home groups of students.
- Consideration will be given to gender, the previous group, each child's ability, behaviour and friendship groups etc. Individual needs and a whole school perspective must be considered.
- Any parent input must be directed to the Principal and placed in writing for consideration..
- Once draft home groups are completed, the principal will make any necessary final alterations.
- Under exceptional circumstances the Principal may reorganise home groups throughout the year.
- Staff members will not disclose the composition of proposed home groups prior to any formal announcements.
- Children who enrol at the school during the year will be temporarily allocated to home groups, with the possible need to alter the placement once further information regarding the child is known.
- Details relating to the school organisation, home groups of children, and the roles of teachers will be released to parents with the report or on Step Up Day.
- Concerns regarding the placement of specific children in home groups, the allocation of particular teachers to home groups, or the overall structure of home groups must be directed to the Principal.

Evaluation:

- This policy was originally formed, in consultation with all members of the wider community (all staff, parents, students, and interested members of the community) as part of the school's five - year review cycle.

Principal**School Council President**