COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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25/4/25

Dear Parents and Carers,

Collis Primary School Policy on Class Mixing

We are writing to inform you of our policy, agreed upon by the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team (SLT), regarding the mixing of classes at Collis Primary School. Following extensive discussions across various school forums, we recognise the need for a clear and consistent approach to remove any uncertainty around this practice.

The Class Mixing Policy
The Governing Body has agreed that all pupils at Collis will experience a class mix *at least once* during their time at the school. This shuffle will take place either at the end of Year 2 or at the end of Year 3. This policy will commence this summer term, ready for September 2025.
NB: The school reserves the right to mix different year groups as necessary.

In the summer of 2023, we successfully mixed three cohorts (current Years 4, 5 and 6). We are very confident that this approach benefits the children's learning and develops friendships at Collis.

Why Do We Mix Classes?
Class mixing is an important strategy to maintain balance within year groups and is popular with most primary schools. Over time, natural changes can occur as new children join Collis and others leave. Additionally, children develop in different ways, leading to shifts in class relationships and social dynamics. Mixing classes ensures that year groups remain balanced in terms of:

- Gender distribution
- Academic ability
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Behavioural considerations

As an inclusive community school, we have a responsibility to provide all pupils with equal opportunities and a consistent educational experience, regardless of their class placement. It is simply not fair or right that some classes become harder to learn in (as a pupil) and harder to teach (for the teacher). Mixing classes addresses this possible imbalance.

Additional Benefits of Class Mixing
Social Development: Mixing classes helps children broaden their friendships across the year group while importantly still maintaining existing friendships, as they continue to interact during playtimes and school activities. Some pupils benefit from being in different classes from their peers while having the opportunity to make new friendships.

Preparation for Secondary School: Secondary schools mix classes regularly, and past feedback from secondary school leaders indicates that children who have not experienced class mixing find it harder to adapt to Year 7.

Enhanced Learning Experience: Teachers and support staff believe that this approach will benefit all children, ensuring that each class environment is as balanced and enriching as possible.

Implementation and Next Steps ready for September 2025:
We will begin the class mixing process after the May half-term. As outlined in the policy, Year 3 will be mixed this year. Due to the current Year 2 cohort being imbalanced, we will also be mixing Year 2. All other year groups will remain unchanged, in line with the policy.

Further timeline details will be shared in due course, and we will incorporate feedback from previous years to enhance the transition process. This includes clear communication, the timing of the communication, and how we speak to the children — including talking to them about the benefits of mixing classes. Before Easter and today we began this process in a special assembly. After half term pupils will be able to list between 4–5 classmates they would like to be with in their new class (this will be done at home with parents), and the school will ensure that at least one of these is paired with them.

It is important to trust the teachers and the process, as they know the children best. We are committed to ensuring a smooth and supportive experience for all pupils involved. It would be helpful if you discuss the mixing of classes with your child, at the weekend, using the points from this letter.

Thank you for your continued support.

Collis Governing Body