



Pride in ourselves,
pride in our school,
pride in our community.

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Class Allocation Information

Starting Reception is a big step for both children and parents and we are always keen to make the transition as smooth as possible. Parents often ask us how we allocate children to classes and we hope that you find the following information helpful.

Firstly, we'd like to assure you that when we make choices about which class children go in to we do so with the best interests of that child based on the knowledge we have of them. Our experienced staff spend hours every year considering class placements and child combinations and, although some children will need some time to settle in when they start in September, we are keen for each child to reach a point early on when they are happy and are able to flourish. Our teaching staff are dedicated to making sure that this happens and are committed to doing whatever is necessary to achieve this.

The way that we choose classes is mainly based on two sources of information:

- Advice from parents
- Advice from the child's previous setting (if appropriate)

When we have received information forms from parents and have spoken to the staff at the previous settings, we make our decisions based on:

- Social preferences
- How child combinations affect the children's confidence and wellbeing
- How different child combinations affect the children's focus and ability to learn

It's a really difficult job to balance all of these factors but we're reassured about some of our more difficult choices due to a number of reasons. Firstly, during your child's Reception year they will spend the majority of their time in free play with every other child in the Reception unit. This means that no child is 'separated' from any other child.

Secondly is the fact that, when they move up through the school, time in class will be when children focus on class activities, having the time and opportunity to socialise with the whole year group at break and lunchtime. In Years 1 to 4 at Gothic Mede, the children are moved around class into different spaces at least fortnightly so that they can learn to work with all children. We strongly believe that an effective school will support their children in developing the ability to work with a range of children - not just their close friends.

Finally, we find that children settle quickly in to their classes, maintain existing friendships, but also make new friendships with children from other Nursery settings. We keep a close eye on all children and monitor their wellbeing and progress carefully.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact us on GMA-Office@bestacademies.org.uk

Principal: Thomas Clarke
Acting Vice Principal: Amy Morris
Chair of Governors: Jo Graves



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