



## Martley C.E. Primary School

# Mixed Age Policy

Document Full Name	Policy for Transition Between Year Groups in Mixed Year Group Classes 2024-2025
Developer/Developer's Role	Lucy Cox – Head of School
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Approval Responsibility	Local Academy Board
Review Cycle	Annually
Next Review Date	June 2025

### Our Christian Values

Our Core Christian values are the 5 C's - **Commitment, Creativity, Compassion, Co-operation and Courage**. They permeate our curriculum and are taught through our collective worship, within our curriculum and as part of our personal development programme.

Our vision is that everyone will know that they are loved by God. We nurture all children and adults so that they flourish as individuals and make the best of their God-given talents, through embracing our diverse world.

'Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the creator of the sun, moon and stars. God does not change like their shifting shadows'.

James 1:17

International Children's Bible

We also support and follow the vision of the Diocese of Worcester Multi-Academy Trust (DoWMAT) of which we are a member school:

'To Love, To Learn, To Serve' sums up the DoWMAT's vision for those who come together to create the MAT, enabling all to flourish both as individuals and in community with each other; living life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

### **Equality and Diversity Statement**

At Martley CE Primary School and Pre-School we promote equality of opportunity. We promote positive attitudes and encourage active participation of all stakeholders regardless of race, gender, disability, age, religion, belief and sexuality.

In so doing we strive to eliminate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of any group and where any such harassment is found appropriate action will be taken immediately.

Mixed-age teaching is when two or more year groups are combined to create one class of children. This is especially common in small, rural schools where the pupil intake numbers are less than the usual class size of 30. At Martley, we have 5 classes to accommodate 7 year groups of pupils from Reception to Year 6.

### Classroom/Year Group Arrangement for 2024 - 2025

Holly Class: Reception (EYFS) and Year 1

Maple Class: Year 1 and Year 2

Willow Class: Year 3 and Year 4

Rowan Class: Year 4 and Year 5

Oak Class: Year 5 and Year 6

Martley has a pupil admission number (PAN) of 20 the maximum on roll is 140

### Whole School Approach

The school works hard to ensure that all children in a particular year group maintain their group's identity. Opportunities will be created for all children in the year group to work together, sit together at dinner time and play together. School hold a transition morning for the children to meet their new teachers and spend time preparing them for the changes that will happen in the Autumn term.

All teachers are responsible for the individual development of every child in their class. At Martley there is already a wide range of needs within each class and year group and the teachers are already proficient at adapting the curriculum to meet the pupils' individual needs across the curriculum.

In mixed year group classes, the teachers take the objectives and plan a programme of study to teach these objectives effectively across the ability range of the class. At times pupils will work at the same tasks but at different levels of ability and at other times the pupils will do completely different work specific to their needs within that area of learning. At all times the teacher is finding out about each individual child's abilities and is planning and evaluating accordingly in terms of the differentiated outcomes of the tasks planned.

### Will my child be held back if she/he is placed in a mixed age or split year group class?

The ways in which learning, and teaching are organised in primary schools means that work is tailored to the needs and current achievement levels of individual pupils. The staff at Martley are experienced at planning and delivering work to match the needs of mixed age learning. They provide challenge and support for those needing it, whichever year group they are currently in. Furthermore, the school plans the educational experiences for pupils in all classes in ways which ensure good progression and continuity, whichever year group or class they are in.

One exception is that Maths is taught in single year groups as the objectives for each year group differ, therefore children may move classes for their maths lesson.

## Criteria for Class Allocation

For mixed-age classes, age is the prime and overriding criterion for arranging classes. Wherever possible, this will be followed by a requirement to spend a minimum of one year in each class. Gender is also considered to ensure an appropriate balance across classes; identified Special Educational Need including those children in EYFS not meeting their Early Learning Goals; multiples (twins etc) will also be considered on an individual basis, in consultation with parents and appropriate professionals.

The following criteria will not be considered:

- achievement/ability
- behaviour (unless an identified SEN)
- friendship groups

## Exceptions

The school retains the right to make exceptions if there is clear evidence that a child's needs can be more effectively catered for in a specific classroom. All these factors will be taken into consideration by the Head of School and class teachers when planning classes for the next academic year. However, it is the Head of School who makes the final decision based on their professional judgement of where the child will best flourish in both their personal, social and academic achievements.