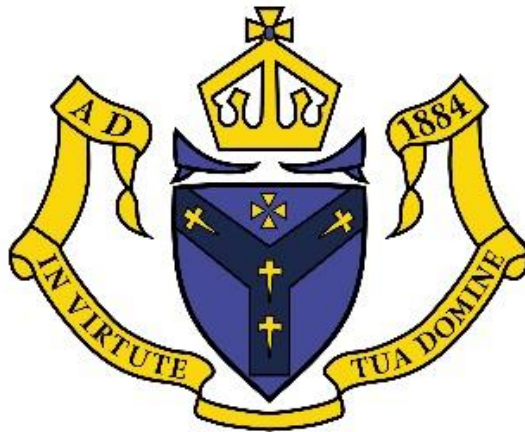


Creative, courageous and aspirational in the strength of God.
Sissinghurst Church of England VA Primary



The Governors and Staff of Sissinghurst (VA) Church of England Primary School believe the policies and procedures we write help us to continuously improve the school and develop our pupils to become life-long learners and valuable citizens of the future.

Our School Vision

We are a strong 'family', passionate about providing creative and aspirational learning opportunities. We are courageous advocates for the planet, learning to speak out for others' locally, nationally and globally. Rooted in the strength of God, we respect, cherish and nurture the unique abilities of each member of our community.

We are dedicated to providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. Our Christian values of:

Kindness Forgiveness Courage Service

Policy Title:	Class Organisation Policy
Date:	March 2022
Review Date:	March 2023
Reviewed by:	Joanna Langton HT
Agreed by:	L&D committee

At Sissinghurst CEP (VA) School our vision is to be a strong 'family' where we are all passionate about providing creative and aspirational learning opportunities. We believe it is important to respect, cherish and nurture the unique abilities of each member of our community and our classes and as such each child in our school is known by name and their personal academic and social needs are taken into consideration when we plan our class organisation. As a close family school we benefit from the ability to mix our classes and children will work with a variety of others during their time in our school, this makes our school very friendly, a place where your age does not determine who you are friends with, we are all friends together and as such we play, learn and develop alongside each other.

Primary schools across the country are arranged in a huge variety of ways from very small schools with a combination of ages in one class, to very large schools with a number of classes per year group. Regardless of the type of primary school government legislation directs that infant class i.e. those in EYFS and Key stage 1 have a limit of a maximum of 30 pupils. Once in Key stage 2 or above there is no limit on class size.

Children are expected to join EYFS in September before they turn 5, this would then dictate their year group going forward. More information about admissions to primary school based on their date of birth can be found here:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places/primary-school-places>

For children who are summer born parents may be concerned if their child is ready to start school. At Sissinghurst CEP (VA) School we are happy to discuss parental concerns and speak to nursery or pre-school staff. Where children may have identified special educational needs it may be decided with parents, the school SENCO (Anna Wolfe) and nursery staff that an additional year at pre-school may be beneficial but in the majority of cases research shows that summer born children perform as well as their peers by the end of key stage 2. Timetable adjustments can be discussed for some children with our EYFS team. Your child must start full-time education once they reach compulsory school age. This is on 31 December, 31 March or 31 August

following their fifth birthday - whichever comes first. If your child's fifth birthday is on one of those dates then they reach compulsory school age on that date.

For example, if your child reaches compulsory school age on 31 March, they must start full-time education at the beginning of the next term (summer term that year).

When children start in September in EYFS we operate a phased start beginning with morning only, morning and lunch and then all day. However, we find that once children start they do not want to miss afternoon child initiated learning sessions and that the majority of children cope well and enjoy staying at school all day. The school day for EYFS finishes at 2:55.

At Sissinghurst Primary School we have a combination of single aged classes in EYFS and Key stage 1 and mixed classes in Key Stage 2:

EYFS & Key Stage 1

Lion Class – EYFS children aged 4 – 5

Giraffe Class – Year 1 children aged 5-6

Elephant Class –Year 2 children aged 6-7

Key Stage 2

Zebra class – year 3 and 4 children aged 7-9

Eagle class – year 4 and 5 children aged 8-10

Leopard class – year 5 and 6 children aged 9-11

Class split In Key stage 2

At Sissinghurst Primary we are a family of learners who support and care for each other. Mixed aged classes in key stage 2 give children opportunities to work collaboratively to increase independence and competence. We value the relationships which are formed from an early age across our school family and research shows that schools with mixed aged classes have increased social and emotional understanding. Our vision for Sissinghurst is that we are a strong and caring family school, we begin mixed age interactions and friendships when the children start school in EYFS and they are allocated a year 5 buddy who greets them to our school, help them navigate

their first year at school, looks after them at lunchtimes – we find that close friendships form that last until the older child leaves and sometimes beyond.

Children will first experience a class split in year 4 when the youngest year 4 children will form part of the Zebra year 3 and year 4 class mix. From year 4 onwards children continue to move through key stage 2 according to their birthdate. This means that from year 4 onwards children will have friends from different year groups in their class each year which ensures that close friendships are developed across key stage 2.

The following table shows how children may move through key stage 2.

Zebra Class	Eagle class	Leopard Class
All year 3 children	Year 4 children usually winter and Spring birthdays (depending on numbers)	Year 5 children usually winter birthdays (depending on numbers)
Youngest year 4 children (usually summer born depending on numbers)	Youngest year 5 children (usually summer born depending on numbers)	All year 6 children

Exceptions to the table above:

In some rare cases where there may be specific special educational or social and emotional needs children may follow a different personalised pathway through key stage 2. This would be a discussion with parents which was initiated by the school SENCO and in all cases the final decision is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Curriculum Organisation:

All state funded primary schools are required to follow the national curriculum this can be found on our website. We plan our learning based on creative learning journeys which change each long term an outline of these can be found here. Key skills progression points for each year group have been planned specifically for Sissinghurst and make up our 'stepping stones' of learning they can be incorporated within

whichever Learning Journey is being taught, the end points for these key stepping stones are measured and assessed at the end of each year group.

The National curriculum specifies that PoS can be completed by the end of a key stage and it is not a requirement that they be completed by the end of a year group despite this being the format set out in the National Curriculum. In our school we have adapted the PoS to ensure there is full coverage of the key stage 2 PoS by the end of this phase which is based on a 4 year rolling cycle of teaching. Knowledge will be specific to learning journeys and therefore the end points for topic specific knowledge learning can be found at the end of the key stage once children have completed the 4 year cycle.

Based on this model, children in key stage 2 will all follow the same learning journeys, science, and RE curriculum. This approach ensures no child misses any learning or repeats any learning.

Maths

In key stage 2 at Sissinghurst we aim to teach maths in year groups rather than in class groups.

Dates

Class organisation and staffing are planned by the SLT during term 5 and 6 and families are notified towards the end of term 6 of which class their child will be in and with which teacher. Where there are exceptions to our published organisation for class splits (see table above) parents will have been contacted by the SENCO in term 5 to discuss adaptations. The Headteacher will not make alterations to the class organisation after the published classes have been announced.