



# Composite Classes at St Brigid's School: Guide for Staff and Parents

**Why this document?** This guide has been developed to assist parents and teachers to fully understand the principles of how our model of Composite Classes will function at St Brigid's School. This guide has been shaped by parent and staff feedback received during our parent information session in Term 2 and 3, 2017.

**History:** From 2003-2008 and from 2015-current St Brigid's School has had some classes structured as Composite Classes (more than one Year Level cohort sharing a class). In 2018 combined classes will be 2/3, 2/3, 4/5 and 5/6. This will be reviewed each year based on enrolment trends and student numbers.

**Rationale:** At St Brigid's our students are at the heart of our decision making and we are committed to providing the very best educational program for our students that we can offer. Our Strategic Plan (2017-2019) and School Goals clearly articulate our vision and aspirations for our school and our students. Our School Board and Leadership Team with the support of our staff, have worked collaboratively to develop a reviewed model of class structure for next year. Our 2018 model has been designed with the intention to; enable enhanced educational programs and resources, improve classrooms and learning environments and provide greater opportunities for our students, in a sustainable and financially responsible manner that is responsive to the changing demographics and enrolments trends.

## Structure for 2018:

Student Groups	Class Size (current enrolments)	Maximum Size (Guidelines)
Kindergarten	TBC	30
Pre-Primary	17	30
Year 1	19	30
Year 2/3	21	30
Year 2/3	22	30
Year 4/5	29	32
Year 5/6	29	32

**Additional Student Support:** Our new model enables an improvement in the way support is delivered in line with current research. Each class will benefit from support during their Literacy Block each day (Mon-Thurs) and further support will be provided as required to individual students.

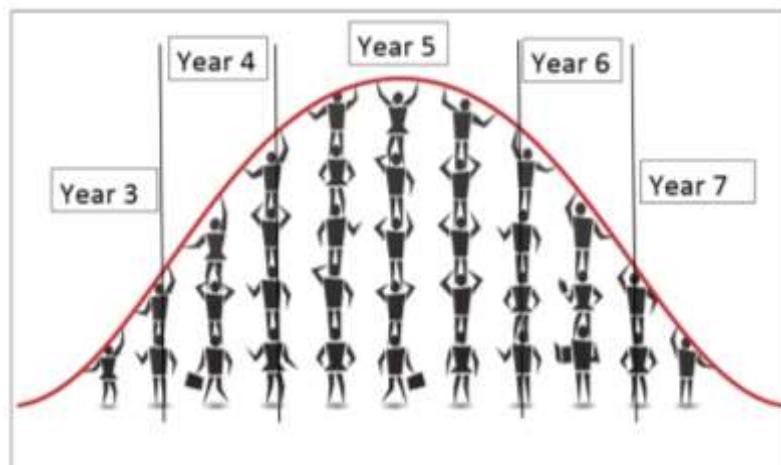
**Class-Student Allocation:** The Leadership Team is responsible for the placement of each student. Teachers provide the Leadership Team with balanced cohorts relating to the emotional, behavioural, social, physical, academic and special needs of each student. Teachers also consider the personal learning

traits and disposition of each child. Parents are not able to request a particular teacher, however, as key and valued partners, parents are encouraged to discuss their child's learning and personal needs with a member of the Leadership Team during Term 3. This information will be considered by the Leadership Team (in consultation with teachers) in placing each student. Student class allocation and the planned teacher/(s) for the classes will be provided to parents with the Amenities Charges early in Term 4.

**Composite Classes- Balanced and Non-Graded:** Each class will be balanced as evenly as possible. This model provides a consistent approach across our school e.g. Yr 1 is non-graded. Yr 5/6 is comprised of non-graded Yr 5s and non-graded Yr 6s. The expected outcomes of non-graded multi-age groups are; improved social learning, greater confidence and depth of learning for advanced students and lower ability students are exposed to and challenged by new learning and concepts. Each class will be delivered the prescribed curriculum as per WA Curriculum Guidelines for their year level no matter what class they are in e.g. In the Year 4/5 class- the Yr 4 students will be delivered the Yr 4 Curriculum and the Yr 5 students will be delivered the Yr 5 Curriculum.

Our teachers are well equipped to cater to the diverse range that is not only present in composite classes but also in straight classes, as is outlined in the model below.

**Model of an “Average” Year 5 Class**



*In reality, every class is a composite class as each child's development; physical, social, cognitive, emotional or spiritual occurs in stages, and children move through stages in their development.*

**Year Level Programs, Alignment and Identity:** Composite classes presents planning challenges in areas such as NAPLAN, Camps and Excursions, Sport, Leadership programs, Year Group Identity etc. These will be planned for in advance of the 2018 year.

- The Booklist/Amenities will be consistent for all students in the same year of schooling.
- Camps and Excursions will be consistent for all students in the same year of schooling.
- Curriculum delivered will be consistent for all students in the same year of schooling.
- There will be enhanced collaboration and alignment across K-1, our Yr 2/3 classes and our Yr 4/5 and Yr 5/6 classes.
- Our school will actively plan for opportunities to maintain and build Year Group Identity.

**We invite you to address any queries you may have to a member of the Leadership Team.**