



SAINT BRIGID'S SCHOOL COLLIE

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Tuesday, 20 June 2017

School and Class Structure 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

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.

In determining our new structure, we consulted and researched thoroughly to ensure the revised model we developed would be beneficial for our students and school.

An outline of the 2018 Model is provided below:

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

We understand that parents are rightfully very interested in everything that may impact on their child/children. As part of our commitment to "partner with parents" we will host an information session with an opportunity for questions and answers at school on Thursday evening at 7:30pm. Overleaf includes some further explanations for parents that will be covered in more detail on Thursday evening. If you are unable to attend this meeting, you are welcome to make an appointment to see me.

We thank you for your ongoing support of our school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Daniel Graves

Principal

Mrs Rochelle Piavanini

Board Chair (on behalf of the St Brigid's School Board)

SERVICE

RESPECT

KINDNESS

LEARNING

Further Information- 2018 Class Structures

- **Will my child be disadvantaged?** Extensive research concludes that classroom structures and models (composite/straight) have no impact on student achievement and composite class may foster greater social and emotional growth and decrease behavioural problems.
- **Are composite classes normal?** Yes- approximately half of primary students in Australia are in a composite class.
- **Why?** Reviewed structuring is required as we respond to changing demographics of Collie and enrolment trends, and prioritise educational opportunity for our students.
- **Will student Support continue?** The new structure will provide an improvement in the way support is delivered in line with current research. Each class will benefit from additional support for their Literacy Block each day (Mon-Thurs) and further support will be provided as required.
- **Will student Extension continue?** Yes- this successful program operates as a multi-age program and our new model implemented in 2017 has provided greater opportunity for more students. This program will continue.
- **Which class will my child be in?** Teachers strive to ensure the emotional, behavioural, social, academic and special needs of students in each class is balanced. Teachers also consider the personal learning traits and disposition of each child.
- **Do parents get a say?** As key and valued partners, parents are encouraged to discuss their child's learning with the school. This information will be considered by the Leadership Team (in consultation with teachers) in placing each student.
- **Will students be placed in classes based on academic ability?** No. Each cohort will be balanced as evenly as possible. This provides a consistent approach across our school eg. Yr 1 is non-graded. Yr 5/6 is comprised of non-graded 5s and non-graded 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.
- **Will my child be repeating the year or going up or down?** No. Each class will be delivered the prescribed curriculum as per WA Curriculum Guidelines for their year level no matter what class they are in.
- **What about Year Level specific programs; NAPLAN, Camp, Leadership, Sport/PE etc?** Students will not miss out- these will be planned prior to the commencement of the school year by our staff.
- **Are children permitted/encouraged to play with students from other year levels?** Yes. This is already the case at our school and is the natural way that children play.
- **Are teachers trained for composite/ multi-age classes?** Yes. Teachers are trained to differentiate instruction for the multitude of abilities in each class. In reality, every class is a composite class as each child's development, whether it is physical, social, cognitive or spiritual, occurs in stages and children move through these stages at varying rates. Ongoing teacher training and upskilling of our educators is prioritised as the classroom teacher has the greatest influence on student performance.