



The Federation of Cowick and Pollington-Balne CE Primary Schools

Executive Headteacher: Mrs K Rawes
Chair of Governors: Mrs K Ray
Vice Chair of Governors: Mrs A Laycock-Brown



Cowick CE Primary School

Snaith Road, East Cowick, Goole. DN14 9DG
Tel: (01405) 860417
Email: cowick.primary@eastriding.gov.uk
www.cowickprimary.org.uk
Head of School: Mrs C Bagguley

Pollington-Balne CE Primary School

Balne Moor Road, Pollington, Goole. DN14 9DG
Tel: (01405) 861916
Email: office@pollington-balne.eriding.net
www.pollingtonbalneprimary.com
Head of School: Mrs M Batty

2nd June, 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Mixed Age & Split Year Group Classes in Schools

Mixed age classes are formed in many schools partly because of the way in which the pupil roll is configured in any given year (i.e. the number of pupils in each different year group). It is not uncommon for this situation to change from year to year, as the sizes of year groups can vary quite dramatically. The annual intake of children at Pollington-Balne C of E Primary is usually about 17 children and with 7 year groups, this means that the school organises the children into 4-5 similar size classes. Dependent on the cohorts, the configuration of classes can change. Currently, we have:

Oak Class – EYFS
Ash Class - Year 1/2
Maple Class – Year 2 /3
Willow Class - Year 4/5
Birch Class - Year 5/6

Why is the situation different in my child's school from that in other schools?

It is fair to say that different situations pertain in all schools. Many schools in ERYC have less than 100 pupils or between 100 and 150 pupils and may therefore arrange groups in 3, 4 or 5 classes. Each one of these schools has no choice but to form one or several mixed age classes. In none of these schools is the formation of mixed age classes of itself an issue or a concern. Many primary schools in ERYC (large and small) have formed mixed age classes, and there is no evidence to suggest that being in a mixed age class has any detrimental effect on the education of children in that class.

Do mixed age classes have fewer pupils in them?

Sometimes this may happen within smaller settings or when the needs of the children lead this. However, the maximum size of any class with infant children will usually be restricted to 30 children, whilst this is more flexible in KS2.

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

Definitely not! The ways in which learning and teaching are organised in primary schools means that teaching and work is tailored to the needs and current achievement levels of individual pupils. The staff at Pollington-Balne C of E Primary School are developing the curriculum to ensure that all plans are carefully sequenced in order to meet the changing cohort needs. Within these plans, care will be made to provide challenge for the more able children and support for those needing more help whichever year group they are currently in.

Much work is undertaken in small groups and contain children from 1 or 2 year groups or those of similar existing achievement levels. Furthermore, the school will plan the educational experiences for pupils in all classes in ways which ensure good progression and continuity, which ever year group or class they are in.

Forming a mixed age or split year group class may mean that my child's friendship grouping is being broken up.

Although care is taken in allocating pupils to classes, their social needs are not ignored. In general terms it is likely to be good for children to experience classes with different classmates so that their circle of friends and acquaintances can be extended beyond the traditional age boundaries. Where new classes are formed, it is of course, perfectly feasible for schools to create opportunities beyond the standard curriculum for pupils to maintain contact with friends who have been allocated to other classes (such as at lunchtimes, break times, special activities, Forest School, etc.). Certainly, when children transfer to secondary school, new friendship groupings in different subject areas become a fact of life, and this situation is generally welcomed by many children.

What are the benefits to the arrangements?

Children benefit in many ways from the opportunity to become an 'expert' for the younger children and a positive role model which the younger children often aspire to. This 'vertical' grouping often nurtures thinking & problem solving skills, vocabulary & social competences. There is often a greater sense of cooperation and opportunities to work with a wider circle of peers. The children often have several years with the same teacher and this provides a perfect opportunity for the teacher to develop a deeper understanding of a child's needs and strengths and is therefore in a stronger position to better support the child's learning. In turn, the child knows their teacher well, understands the expectations they have, and can build upon a level of trust that encourages them to 'have a go' or try something new.

There are occasions when staffing changes. When this happens, the school works hard to ensure a smooth transition. We would like to inform you that three valued members of staff, Mrs Foster, Mrs Pears and Miss Abbott will be leaving us with effect from 31/8/2025. We are incredibly grateful for their contributions and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. Recruitment processes are currently underway, and as such, we are not yet in a position to confirm class teacher allocations for the coming academic year. Please rest assured that we will share this information with families as soon as we are able, and we are committed to ensuring a smooth and supportive transition for all pupils.

As per 2024-2025, we have decided to base our mixed age classes for the academic year 2025 to 2026 on age. We will take into consideration parental view before our decisions are published around the placement of siblings and twins. However, it is the Headteacher who makes the final allocation based on the professional judgement of where the child will best flourish in both their personal, social and academic achievements.

At present, we are unable to finalise our classing allocations. This is due to the fact that we have received our full allocation to EYFS and have received a number of appeals for families wanting their children to attend Pollington-Balne, both in EYFS and in year. It is likely that our class structure next year will be as follows:

Oak Class – EYFS & Year 1
Ash Class – Year 1 & 2
Maple Class – Year 3 & 4
Willow Class – Year 4 & 5
Birch Class – Year 6

This however, could be subject to change dependent on our final allocation of pupils. We will of course inform you as soon as we are able once all appeals have been heard.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Rawes." with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Katherine Rawes

Executive Headteacher