



Frequently Asked Questions

Class Structure

All schools have a pre-determined admission number set by the local authority. This number for Stroud Valley is 37, which means we are allowed to admit 37 children into each year group before being deemed as full.

Clearly we cannot have class sizes at 37 which is why we have mixed ability classes at Stroud Valley.

The structure and composition of our classes is something we take time to organise every year.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

When children start at Stroud Valley they will join either Rainbow or Sunshine Class. We have to allocate these children to one of two classes as we cannot have 37 children in one class. This decision is made simply on the basis of age and the oldest children joining will be in rainbow Class. However the environment, planning and staff allocation ensures all reception children experience the same curriculum and play based learning.

In Rainbow Class there are also some Year One children who have their learning needs planned and catered for separately.

Year One - we have to split our Y1 children between Rainbow (EYFS / Y1) and Amethyst (Y1 / Y2). The teacher your child has in EYFS will explain their reasons for which class your child moves to in Y1 during the summer term. All Y1 children receive the Y1 curriculum and are taught the next steps in knowledge appropriate to their level of development.

Year Two

Amber Class consists of Year Two children, however again due to the 37 PAN some Y2 children will be allocated to Amethyst class. The decision about where children are placed is a professional teacher decision and based on many factors.

Key Stage Two

Research shows that mixed ability classes are the most productive approach in enhancing learning.

Our class structure is:

Ruby Class - Y3 and Y4

Diamond Class - Y3 and Y4

Quartz Class - Y4 and Y5

Aventurine - Y5 and Y6

Emerald - Y5 and Y6

The curriculum is carefully planned to ensure that during their time in KS2 the full content of the National Curriculum is taught. Children in different classes may cover the learning under a variety of themes to ensure we avoid repetition of learning and coverage.

Careful consideration is given when allocating children to classes with factors including their friendships, working relationships with one another and their next steps in the learning process.

We recognise that changing classes and having a different mix of children isn't always easy at the outset. However, experience shows us that classes quickly settle and the creation of different class make up each year enables social skills to develop.

I am concerned that my child is not in the same class as his / her friends/

Time and care are taken when we sort the classes each year and consideration is given to friendships and children's social needs. It is often beneficial for children to experience developing new friendships outside of their comfortable circle of friends and to be able to communicate with children of different year groups.

Our ultimate aim to ensure our children flourish whilst here and we take the sorting of classes very seriously each year.