

## Bunscoil McAuley Rice

### Class Allocation Policy

#### Rationale

In line with the Bunscoil McAuley Rice Admissions policy, the maximum number of students enrolling in junior infants annually will be published in our Annual Admissions Notice on the school website. When staffing allows, the Board of Management has decided to allocate the students into three junior infant classes in order to provide an enhanced opportunity for them during their first year at school. These classes will merge at the end of the junior infant year and will continue as two classes from the start of senior infants to 6th class.

This policy was discussed with teaching staff, Board of Management and Parents' Association.

#### Junior Infants Class Division

The following criteria will be used to select children for the three junior infant classes:

- Children will be divided according to age, from oldest to youngest, keeping a balance between male and female pupils in each class. Children with additional needs may be considered separately in order to provide the best supports possible for them.
- Each class will have a mixture of boys and girls as follows:

Class A	Class B	Class C
Eldest Boy/Girl	2 <sup>nd</sup> Eldest Boy/Girl	3 <sup>rd</sup> Eldest Boy/Girl
4 <sup>th</sup> Eldest Boy/Girl	5 <sup>th</sup> Eldest Boy/Girl	6 <sup>th</sup> Eldest Boy Girl etc

This pattern will be continued until all students are allocated a place in one of the groups. Class Teachers will be allocated to the Groups A, B & C by random selection.

- The same junior infant curriculum will be delivered to all three classes. All three classes will play together on the same yard at break times.
- Parents of twins/triplets will be given the option of putting their children in separate classes or keeping their children in the same class where applicable.
- The final decision, regarding class splits, will lie ultimately with the Principal.

## Framework for the Amalgamation of three Junior Infant Classes into two Senior Infant Classes

The following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- Children will be allocated to classes according to age, from oldest to youngest, keeping a balance between male and female pupils in each class. Children with additional needs may be considered separately in order to provide the best supports possible for them.

### Class A

Eldest Boy/Girl

3<sup>rd</sup> Eldest Boy/Girl

### Class B

2<sup>nd</sup> Eldest Boy/Girl

4<sup>th</sup> Eldest Boy/Girl

This pattern will be continued until all students are allocated a place in one of the groups.

- It will seldom be possible to satisfy demands for groups of friends to be kept together. However, parents will be given the opportunity to write down the names of three friends from their child's current class. The principal will endeavour to ensure that at least one of these children is in the same class as their child. While the process of forming new friendships is a life skill which is important to develop, a positive and supportive attitude from parents is a key element in achieving a successful outcome in the new classes.
- The final decision, regarding the new senior infant class groupings, will lie ultimately with the principal.

Senior infant classes will unite daily to play together on the playground/sports field during breaks so that they can maintain existing friendships formed while in junior infants as well as make new friends in their new class. This increases their circle of friends and their abilities to form new friendships.

### Review

This policy will be reviewed in 2024, or immediately, if necessary. Responsibility for co-ordinating the review of the policy will be undertaken by the Principal.

This policy was ratified by Board of Management on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

Chairperson: Mr. William Gardiner

Principal: Mr. John Moloney