

ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Re: Class restructuring for September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are writing to inform parents/carers of our intention to restructure some of our classes in school next academic year as agreed by the full governing body. As a result of the pupil numbers on roll and our school budget, we have been required to review our structure and therefore will reduce from 7 classes to 6 from September 2026.

Legally, we are required to keep our pupil admission number (PAN) as 30 for the year on entry, which is Reception. With this in mind, there will be a cap in place as agreed by the Local Authority for Years 1, 2 and 3 so that we can have 2 mixed classes for these year groups.

This will mean that we will operate with the following structure:

- Reception
- Year 1 / Year 2 (this class will not exceed 30 pupils as is the legal requirement for infant aged pupils)
- Year 2 / Year 3 (this class will not exceed 30 pupils as is the legal requirement for infant aged pupils)
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6.

With this model, the Year 2 class will be split based on date of birth with the older children working in a class with the Year 3 pupils. This is usually the preferred/recommended model where mixed classes are required. Please see the attached policy for more information. Parents/carers will be notified of the class their child is in when staffing has been confirmed for next academic year. Please note that the class structure for future years will be dependent on pupil numbers so we are unable to share this at the moment.





As a school, our leadership team have experience of working with this model in previous schools and will work to ensure that our pupils still receive a strong curriculum offer. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (next year's Year 1, 2 and 3) have worked collaboratively on many occasions this year and we have already seen positive friendships build as a result. We will continue to build in opportunities for our infant classes to work together over the summer term to support their transition. We are recognised by external professionals for the strength in our ability as a school to adapt learning to meet individual need and this will be no different with mixed classes in place. We will continue to strive to improve our provision and ensure our children are meeting their age-related expectations. We will work together to ensure the Year 2 children will receive the same offer regardless of the class that they are in (taking into account ability of each individual child).

As a school, decisions are always based on our vision, 'Learning to love, loving to learn' and are linked to research to ensure that our children receive the very best. We have redesigned the curriculum (taking into account research, our vision and having taken advice from external specialists in their own subject area as well as specialists within our school). Our curriculum has been discussed and reviewed with the Bridge Family of Schools; this has involved Headteachers from schools who currently have mixed age class structures and a current Ofsted inspector. Next year, we will continue to review our provision on a regular basis to ensure our children continue to receive the very best.

There will be opportunities built into each school week where Year 2 children will be taught together as a cohort by a member of staff familiar to them. This will enable us to be flexible with the groupings of pupils to ensure that they receive the teaching they require to meet age related expectations. During this time, Year 1 and Year 3 will also be taught as separate cohorts. Children will be taught in separate cohorts for phonics/spelling, some aspects of Maths, PSHE, Music and French (Year 3).

As usual, we are more than happy to talk about this with you. We want to work together to ensure every year is the best it can possibly be for your children. Please get in touch if you wish to discuss this in more detail with a member of the senior leadership team. We attach a document that may answer some of your questions.

Yours sincerely,

Steph Jenkins
Headteacher

