

POLICY FOR THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN IN CLASSES
ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL
FERNY GROVE

RATIONALE:

The adage that “the parents are the first educators” of their children is accepted and supported by St Andrew’s school. However, parents and school staffs must work in a partnership arrangement, for the good of the children in our care in all aspects of school life. In some instances the local knowledge of the school staff must take precedence in determining what is the very best for the children who attend St Andrew’s.

POLICY

- ❖ The school’s preferred position is that parents should trust the school to do the very best for the children in its care. Canvassing teachers and members of the Leadership Team as to which teachers are preferred for their children should only occur if there is a **valid educational reason** for such a request to be made.
- ❖ If such a request is to be made, with the understanding that there is a valid educational reason supporting such a request, then the request should be put in writing to the Principal.
- ❖ Parents who make such requests should do so on the understanding that the request will be listened to, discussed with the appropriate personnel, but not necessarily acted upon. **No promises are guaranteed.**
- ❖ The teachers who form the grade team, in collaboration with the Support Teacher-Inclusive Education and other key stakeholders, when and where appropriate, will set the classes for the following year. Placement of children in classes will always be done with the following criteria as a guide:
 - Class size
 - Academic ability
 - Even gender mix
 - Friendship groups
 - Sibling divisions
 - Behavioural needs
 - Previous grade history
- ❖ When required the Principal, in conjunction with the school’s Leadership Team will have the final say in the placement of children in classes.

POINTS TO NOTE:

1. Whilst the concerns of parents, if based on valid educational reasons, are important to the school, **“teacher shopping” will be discouraged.**
2. The process/policy outlined above has been explained to all teachers and there is an expectation that the policy is used correctly and fairly at all times.
3. The welfare of all St Andrew’s children is paramount in all discussions and actions with respect to class placements.