

# **SURFSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **CLASS PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS**



### **1. PURPOSE**

To inform to our school community how Surfside Primary School manages the placement of students into classes each year and explain the processes parents and carers can use to communicate any concerns, requests, or considerations regarding their child's placement.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

At Surfside Primary School our first priority is to ensure that all students have equal opportunity to learn in the best possible learning environment.

- We aim to create fair and balanced classes.
- We aim to develop a strong sense of community and positive relationships with children.

Staff at Surfside Primary School carefully consider and plan each student's class placement for the forthcoming year. We take into account each student's academic and social emotional capabilities, their friendships, previous teachers, and consider any unique circumstances. Our key focus is to maximise every opportunity for your child's learning and development.

All classes are developed with a balance of:

- males and females
- high achieving students and students who need support with their learning
- students with behavioural or social emotional needs

Whilst friendships are considered, especially for students with significant social and emotional needs, it is important that students have the opportunity to learn with as many children as possible over their time at Surfside. We encourage all children to create broad friendships and to be inclusive of everyone. For this reason, placing students with best friends is not our first priority. (See 3.2)

### **3. POLICY FOR PARENT REQUESTS**

Where parents and carers wish to communicate information regarding their child's placement:

- All requests for class placement consideration must be made in writing and addressed to the Principal or Assistant Principal.
- Requests will only be considered where educational, social emotional or wellbeing issues are clearly evident.
- Requests for placement will only be accepted up until December 1st each year.

#### **3.1 REQUESTS FOR PLACEMENT FOR TEACHERS.**

All teachers at Surfside Primary School are caring and committed educators and our school strives to ensure that all students are provided with a high quality education.

Whilst we appreciate that you may wish that your child would benefit from being placed in a class with a particular teacher, we are generally unable to accommodate these requests and will always endeavour to place students with teachers who are best placed to suit their needs.

We do not re-allocate students to different classes during the school year, unless exceptional circumstances arise. Parents will be advised of the situation if it arises.

The school is **unable** to grant requests:

- for a teacher based on their reputation and standing within the community. It would be impossible to create balanced grades if these requests were granted.
- for a teacher based on their gender. It would be a discriminatory practice to appoint or place a teacher or child based on gender. This is not a request that can be granted even for social and emotional reasons.
- for a student not to be in a shared class with two teachers. All teachers (upon return from family leave) have the right to access part time work hours. It would be a discriminatory practice to appoint or place a teacher or child based on their time fraction. Teachers who make up shared classes work very hard in and out of school hours to collaborate together to ensure the class is equally as successful as any other grade.

### **3.2 REQUESTS FOR PLACEMENT WITH FRIENDS**

Surfside Primary School recognises the importance of fostering and maintaining friendship groups. We also understand that it is equally important for students to mix and learn with peers who have different interests.

However, friendship is not the core consideration for a class placement. There are times when good friends do not make good classmates.

Sometimes there are issues of conflict that need to be raised as they adversely affect the learning of the children. These issues should be raised with the class teacher and consequently placed in writing to the Principal.

In term 4 prior to creating new classes, all student are provided with the opportunity to identify class mates that they work well with and would appreciate having in the classroom.

### **3.3 REQUESTS FOR STUDENTS TO REPEAT A YEAR LEVEL**

We will regularly promote students to the next year level and will exercise our professional expertise and judgment in relation to these matters. Students are only able to repeat a year level in exceptional circumstances where Surfside Primary School considers it is required for the long-term benefit of the student e.g. considering their social, wellbeing and academic needs. We will ensure that parents/carers are advised of the options that we consider best meet individual student needs. Students will not repeat a year level without the consent of parents/carers.

### **3.4 REQUESTS FOR STUDENTS TO ADVANCE A YEAR LEVEL**

Acceleration is a learning option that parents of gifted and high-ability children may wish to discuss with the school. Acceleration strategies are designed to allow progress through the core content of a school program at a rate more closely aligned with a student's ability and interests. It should be noted that year or stage acceleration is not appropriate for all students and is very rare. To be considered, teachers and parents need to be fully confident that the student is intellectually, emotionally and socially ready to work ahead of their age peers.

## **4. REVIEW PERIOD**

This policy was last updated on October 2024 and is scheduled for review in November 2026.