



BANWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Belong Believe Achieve



Class Structure September 2021 – FAQs

Why aren't Year 3 and Year 4 being taught as single age classes in September?

In September 2021 there will be 45 children collectively in years 3 and 4 (lower key stage 2). This will be made up of 15 children in Year 3 and 30 in Year 4. The school therefore considered the two options below for the two classes in lower key stage 2.

	Class 1	Class 2
Option 1	Year 3 class of 15 children	Year 4 class of 30 children
Option 2	Mixed Year 3 & 4 class of approx. 23 children.	Mixed Year 3 & 4 class of approx. 22 children.

To maximise the opportunities for all children we want to create class sizes that are the most conducive for learning, where we have the option to do so.

How will the needs of all learners be met in a mixed age class?

Teachers are highly skilled professionals who already meet a broad spectrum of need every day in single age classes. This includes a variety of academic, social and behaviour need. In a mixed age class this will continue, with the specific learning that needs to be covered by each year group adapted through the learning objectives that the children will focus on. Mixed year groups are common in many schools and have been in place at Banwell in the past.

Teachers already plan projects collaboratively for year groups. For example, Y3 and Y4 are all doing a project entitled "What is an Artist?" The projects are done on a two year rolling programme which means children won't be repeating learning.

What factors will be used in deciding how the children will be split?

In the year groups that will be split, the teachers have been asked to propose suggested new classes. They will consider factors such as friendships, boy / girl balance, additional needs (eg, SEND, behaviour, emotional support needed) and combinations of children who work well together. Dates of birth will be considered, if relevant. This is likely to be just for the reception cohort who will be split in year 1 next year. If necessary, we may talk to individual parents. We will be informing everyone about the class they will be in in the coming days.

Will the September 2021 class structure be the same in September 2022?

The class structure for September 2022 will be decided in the summer term next year. This is because we will need to consider the numbers we have in each cohort which at this moment in time we can't possibly know.

Will my child be repeating the year they have just had?

No. This will not happen in any of our classes. Children will be taught in line with the year group expectations for the age they are. For example, a Y1 child in the mixed YR & Y1 class will be following a curriculum for Y1 children.

