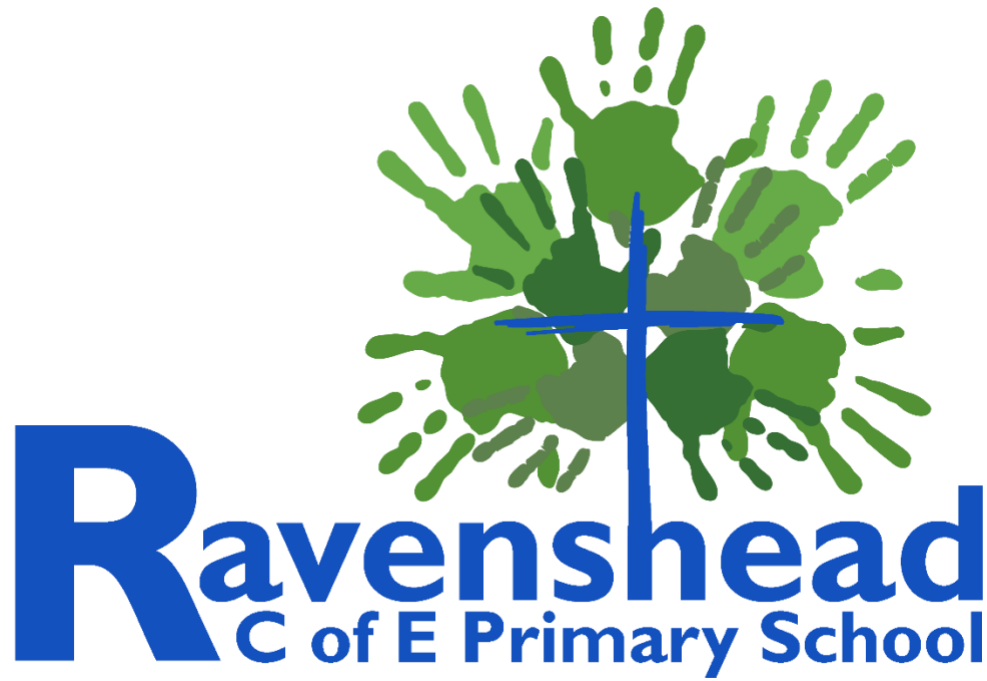




CLASS SETTING POLICY

This policy was adopted:	February, 2016.
This policy was updated:	October, 2025.
This policy will be reviewed:	September, 2026.
Statutory policy:	No.
Source:	School.

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Our School Vision

Our school vision is based on the theme of '**Taking Care**'. We strive to encourage our children, staff and wider community to 'take care' of one another through the core Christian Values of:

Kindness, **Hope**, **Courage** and **Respect**.

Our vision is inspired by the words in Corinthians:

“Let love and kindness be the motivation behind all that you do.”

(1 Corinthians 16.14)

Ravenshead C of E Primary School is committed to valuing diversity and to equality of opportunity. In biblical tradition, children in particular are seen to hold a special place in the priorities of God. Furthermore, we hold to the foundational belief that all people are created in God's image and are intrinsically valuable. Everyone should be treated as fundamentally precious, irrespective of behaviour, achievements or potential.

Therefore, we aim to create and promote an environment in which pupils, parents/carers and staff are treated fairly and with respect and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities. The school's biblical foundation provides a model of Christian community described as the 'body of Christ', in which everyone has a part to play, and everyone without exception has God-given gifts which are to be used for the benefit of others.

1. How classes are determined

- 1:1 Children are divided into classes of near to equal numbers. The classes are considered to ensure that there is a good balance of boys and girls in each class. We check that everyone has someone else to work with so that no child becomes an isolated learner and that every child either has a friend or some children that they are familiar with. We also consider the different needs of the children in each class. The key principle isn't friendship groups but where children will learn best.
- 1:2 We do not take into account requests from children or parents/carers about which class they would like their child in or if they can "be with their friends". This is because it would be impossible to take all requests into account and we must make a decision that is in the best interests of all the children in the school both academically, socially and emotionally.

As the decision about which class a child goes into is based on confidential information, we do not explain the full decision about class-setting to parents/carers or children as this would mean discussing confidential matters about other children.

1:3 We are aware that having children in a class where a child is not with all of his/her friends can be a concern for parents/carers. We work hard to ensure that children are not disadvantaged by which class they are in. It is also the case that children are able to spend lunchtimes with their friendship groups and sessions in the school woods.

2. We consider if any exceptions may apply to children being in the class that they are in.

2:1 Exceptions may include:

- Multiple births (some siblings need to be together, but some are better apart). This is the one exception upon which we may consult parents/carers.
- Number of boys & girls in the class.
- Behaviour.
- Children with Special Educational Needs (SEND).
- Exceptional circumstances that will affect a child's emotional or educational wellbeing.

2:2 Each year group has something special which they all do together. i.e.

- Foundation nativity.
- Year 1/2 nativity
- Year 3 carols in the school wood.
- Year 4 nativity.
- Year 5 DARE graduation.
- Year 6 Leavers' Service.

2:3 Further to these, all the year groups go on trips together and Year 4 and Year 6 also participate in residentials.

3. In order to ensure parents/carers are aware of the way we set classes:

- We ensure, through a newsletter, that parents are aware of this policy just before the classes for the following year are announced.
- We have a copy of this policy on our school website and available to parents upon request.

4. If parents/carers have a question about the class their child is in:

- They should make an appointment to see the child's current teacher, who will answer the question to the best of their ability. Parents/carers must, however, be aware that explaining classes is very difficult without talking about other people's children. We are unable to break confidentiality and so it may not be possible to answer parents'/carers' concerns fully.
- If parents/carers are unhappy with the explanation from the class teacher, they should request to see the Headteacher.
- If parents/carers are unhappy with the response from the Headteacher, they should direct their question to the Chair of Governors or follow the school's complaints procedure. **A complaint can only be lodged if the policy has not been applied correctly.**
- Parents/carers must, however, be aware that class setting is a professional decision and parental "preferences" will not be taken into account.

