

How learning is organised in schools

Information for
Parents





Introduction

How Learning is Organised in Schools: Information for Parents

This leaflet sets out to:

- Highlight key messages about how children learn
- Explain how learning is planned for and organised, including the composition of classes
- Share what parents say about how learning is organised
- Signpost further information and guidance.





How do children learn?

We know that children, even of the same age, learn in many different ways and have different talents, abilities and interests.

There are key things that we can do to make sure that learning is successful for all children in schools.

Some of the key factors that lead to good learning include:

- good teaching and a teacher who understands what children already know, what children can already do - and builds on this
- involvement of children in their own learning - where children understand when their learning is good and what they need to do to make their learning better
- confident and secure children who know they will be listened to - because they have important things to say about their learning
- strong relationships between teachers, children and parents - because we know that the involvement of parents supports learning and gives teachers important information about children as individual learners.

Because we know these key things about learning, we take them into account when learning is being planned for and organised in schools.



How is Learning Planned and Organised?

A great deal of forward thinking and careful consideration goes into any planned change in how learning is organised, including the composition of classes.

The need for change happens as the roll of a school goes up or down. In Stirling Council schools, the way that classes and learning are organised is reviewed annually and decisions are then made about how best to meet the needs of all the children within the school.

Any decisions about how learning and classes are organised need to take into account:

- Numbers of children in the school
- Children's ages
- Gender, to ensure a good mix of boys and girls.

Careful consideration is given to ensuring that a range of learning and teaching approaches and opportunities are in place, in order that all children can work with a range of other children, teachers and adults to support their learning.



Children tell us that friendships are important and because of this, schools ensure a wide range of opportunities for children to learn independently and in small or large groups, where they can make new friends and keep old ones.

Because of the need to balance the interests of all children as learners, learning is carefully planned for in consultation with school staff and closely follows Stirling Council's guidance, The Organisation of Learning in Schools, taking all of the above into account.





What do parents say about how learning is organised in schools?

Parents have told us that good communication about how learning is organised, changes in class or moving from Nursery to Primary or Primary to High School is important.

When children are part of any reorganisation of learning in schools, they face new experiences, opportunities and challenges.

They may want to share these changes and parents, carers and family members can help children to prepare for change and to settle in comfortably and quickly.

Classes are almost always reorganised in the final term for the coming school year. Your child's school will keep you fully informed from the earliest stages and staff will be sensitive to the needs of all children when planning for change.

“It's always helpful to know in advance about any changes – it's important for parents to be able to talk to their child.”



What if I am concerned about any aspect of how learning is organised in my child's school?

Parents should be informed about any changes in the way that learning is organised within their child's school and will have the opportunity to discuss this with the school if they have any concerns.

If you have concerns, share them with your Headteacher, who will be able to give you further information and reassurance about how learning is organised in your child's school.

Where can I find out more?

Further information on how learning is organised in schools is available in the form of:

- Stirling Council Children's Services leaflet for and by children about changing classes
- Stirling Council Children's Services policy document 'The Organisation of Learning in Schools'.

If you need this information
in large print, Braille, audio or in
another language please contact
0845 277 7000 and quote
reference number *****.

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For more information on schools in Stirling
and key education policies, please visit Stirling
Council Children's Services website, which has a
section especially about education and schools:
www.stirling.gov.uk



Stirling Council Children's Services Viewforth Stirling FK8 2ET

email: info@stirling.gov.uk text: 0771 799 0001 phone: 0845 277 7000 web: stirling.gov.uk