



Welcome and thank you
for attending tonight.

Please take a minute to fill in a reflection sheet on your chair

▶ BACKGROUND AND PLAN

- ▶ Since the move to our new premises double stream classes have become necessary.
- ▶ The plan would be to reconstitute some class groupings at the **end** of a year possibly going into 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th
- ▶ **They would be regrouped once in their school journey and will remain in that grouping going into 6th class**
- ▶ **This meeting tonight is just the START of the process. Further consultation with parents would take place.**

Ethos Helen

- ▶ Treating each year group as a whole year group and not as two separate classes is compatible with the Educate Together Ethos



Vygotsky's Social Learning Theory

- Stresses the fundamental role of social interaction in the development of cognition
- Build a need for them to actively use their communication skills to find commonality and diversity in their educationally based social interactions with others.

The aims of regrouping

- ▶ To ensure mixed ability groups
- ▶ To facilitate an optimal learning environment
- ▶ To ensure that each child has the experience of being in class with a wider number of their peers
- ▶ To develop the children's social skills and to better equip them to form and sustain friendships
- ▶ To minimise tensions where difficult relationships exist
- ▶ To maintain a balance where additional support is required and to maintain ongoing inclusivity

Activities throughout the year where groups may come together. Laura

- ▶ School Trips
- ▶ School productions and concerts
- ▶ Lunchtimes
- ▶ Seachtain na Gaeilge activities
- ▶ Projects
- ▶ Sports Days
- ▶ Fundraisers
- ▶ Young Entrepreneur projects



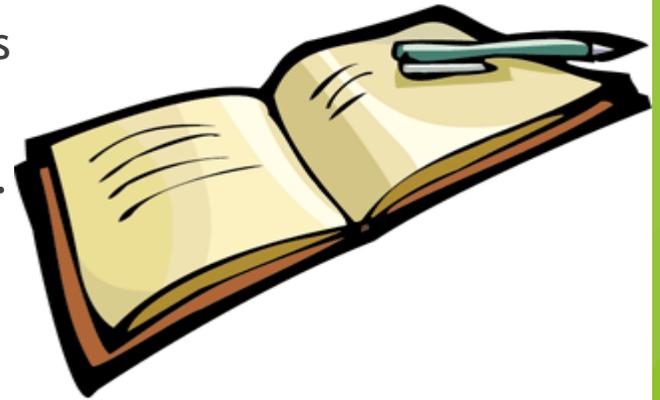
Consider 1

- Some children find that they can go all the way through school and still not feel that they have made strong friendships.
- Children can find it difficult to ‘break free’ from earlier friendships.
- Knowing that these changes will occur during their school career at GETNS will ensure students are more open to new friendships and widening social groups.
- As choices of secondary schools expand in our area, the chances of sharing your classes with friends from GETNS is significantly lowered, socialisation and making new friendships is a skill they need to develop **in a supportive and familiar environment.**

Process

- ▶ Class teachers, support teachers, SNAs and Principal will come together for class formation meetings
- ▶ Parents of the classes being suggested for a re-mix will be invited for a meeting.
- ▶ The following will be considered in determining the new class formation;
 1. Balance of abilities and additional support needs.
 2. Gender balance
 3. Friendships: At least one friend for each child as outlined in the upcoming slide.
 4. Other needs in the classroom

This will require significant time and consideration by GETNS staff - it is a task not taken lightly but is felt that the benefits will enhance students resilience.



Suggested process for class re-formation

- ▶ Parents and children will be given a form to detail the child's friendships and any other relevant information

- ▶ **Pupil Profile form**

- ▶ Child's name _____

- ▶ Please list 3 of your child's friends - we will endeavour to keep at least one in your child's new groupings

- ▶ _____

- ▶ Any other relevant information you would like to share with us

- ▶ _____

- ▶ _____

- ▶ Please return this form to the school by _____

Thank you

Class lists

- ▶ Class lists will be finalised at the end of this process. Children and parents will know their new classes by the end of the school year
- ▶ It will seldom be possible to satisfy all demands for groups of friends to stay in the same class. This decision will lie with the teaching team, who must consider the needs of each child in the class



Follow Up

- Notes taken from discussion on 2nd April

TIMELINE

- Presentation will be shared on website for 2 weeks
- FAQs: Please send to forum@greystoneset.ie
- Responses to FAQs on website by 12th April.
- Reflection morning: 30th April at 8.30 a.m. in classroom near front lobby.
- Ballot: Sent out to each family on Friday 3rd May. To be returned by Wednesday 8th May.

Opinion of Students' Council:

Before viewing the slides:

12 student council representatives met and agreed that they had already heard about the discussion around the possibility of mixing classes. Most were already fairly comfortable with it at this point.

After viewing the slides:

After the showing of the slides, they were more comfortable. One thought that it should only be done in 6th class in preparation for second level. Some thought that it would be good to 'extend friendships'. Of the 5 who began the meeting feeling uncomfortable about it, all gauged their level of comfort as being better after viewing the slides.

Last word.

Thank you for listening. Please have a look at your reflection sheet and complete.

