

Presentation Secondary School Listowel

Co. Kerry



Division of Classes in Presentation Secondary School Policy

Date of policy adoption

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Presentation Secondary School, Listowel

Signed Shane O'Donoghue Date 27/5/25
Chairperson, Board of Management

Policy on Division of Classes in Presentation Secondary School, Listowel

Aim:

To ensure the academic achievement of students through mixed ability classes and standardized assessments.

Policy Statement:

In accordance with the Department of Education's guidelines, Presentation Secondary School adopts a mixed ability approach for all classes to support student achievement.

Assessment Schedule:

Students are assessed three times a year: in October, February, and June. Subject departments administer common tests for these assessments to ensure consistency and fairness. In-class assessments may also take place at each teacher's discretion but will not influence the decision-making process for class organization in Year 3 (Junior Cycle). For further information on Assessments, please refer to the school's Assessment Policy.

Class Allocation:

At the end of Year 2 Junior Cycle, students in Maths, Irish, and occasionally English classes will be banded based on their performance in the June assessments of Year 2. Where applicable and necessary, comparable assessments in Year 2 will also be considered. This banding will determine class allocations for Year 3 (Junior Cycle). Teacher changes will occur as a result of this banding, and students will be informed of their new classes when timetables are issued upon their return to school in August/September of Year 3.

Rationale for Mixed Ability Classes (Banded):

Banded mixed ability classes are rooted in both the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) and the Guiding Principles for a Redeveloped Senior Cycle. They uphold key values such as inclusion, equality of opportunity, high expectations, wellbeing, and learning to learn. This approach promotes active engagement and participation by allowing students to learn alongside peers of differing strengths, encouraging collaboration and mutual support. It also facilitates meaningful differentiation within each band, fostering student confidence, motivation, and a positive learning environment that supports both academic growth and personal development. In this way, banded mixed ability classes give practical expression to the shared principles of the Junior and Senior Cycle Programmes. The approach promotes fairness, engagement, and deeper learning across the continuum of post-primary education, fully aligning with the intent of national education policy.

Class Formation for Senior Years:

For Transition Year, 5th Year, and 6th Year, classes are formed by alphabetical allocation. Teachers will be assigned to classes based on a rotation system, which will take place annually to promote diverse teaching experiences and methodologies.

Finality of Decisions:

All decisions made by the school regarding class allocations and teacher assignments are final. While parents/guardians are welcome to provide input on the subject levels taken by their daughter, the decision on class assignment is based on student assessments and attainment in Year 2. As per all timetable arrangements in schools, teachers do not choose the students in their classes, and parents do not choose the teachers of their children. In the interest of fairness and equity to all, this is non-negotiable.